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**OZ HAND ANOTHER HEARTBREAK TO INDIA, WIN MEN'S U19 WC**

Months after the senior men's team beat India to win the ODI World Cup, Australia did the same to secure their fourth U19 WC title. A look...

**BEARDMAN BLOWS AWAY DEFENDING CHAMPS**

While Australia batters posted a formidable 253/7 on board, it was bowlers who took away India's dream. Pacer Mahli Beardman (3/15) ran through the top-order before off-spinner Raf MacMillan (3/43) completed the job for Australia as they bet India by 79 runs to clinch their fourth U19 Men's World Cup title | P13

**DREAM SHATTERED, BUT PROMISE REMAINS**

- Going into the final as one of the unbeaten teams, the other one was Australia, there were high hopes on the Uday Saharan-led side to defend the title
- However, despite the defeat, the likes of Musheer Khan, Sachin Dhas, Raj Limbani and Saharan have shown that there is no dearth of talent

Scan for more information
Hamara Sankalp
Viksit Bharat
Modi Sarkar ki
Guarantee
Unprecedented boost to dairy sector
India largest producer of milk in the world, record increase of 58% in milk production in last 10 years; Welfare of 8 crore cattle-rearing families ensured
cbc 22201/13/0264/2324

# Hectic parleys in Pak as no wriggle room in final tally

Pact emerging between Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal's parties; all eyes on independents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MAJOR political parties in Pakistan on Sunday intensified hectic backroom negotiations after the election commission released the final results of the February 8 general elections, confirming that no party can have a shot at power without the support of others.

Out of the 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly, the results of 264 were declared after an inexplicable delay of 60 hours. The result of one constituency was withheld following complaints of fraud, while election to another seat was postponed after the death of a candidate.

The final tally gave independent candidates 101 seats, making them the single largest group. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is technically the single largest part at 75, followed by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Bilawal Zardari Bhutto at 54, and the Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) at 17.

Of the 101 independents who emerged victorious, 93 are reportedly associated with jailed former PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

According to reports, PML-N and PPP, have in-principle agreed to come together to "save the country from political instability". Senior leadership of PML-N and PPP reportedly met in Lahore's Bilawal House and decided on political cooperation. MQM-P is already on board. But their tally at 146 is way short of the required number, which leaves the door open for smaller parties and independents. One PTI-backed candidate has already joined PML-N, agency reports from Pakistan said.

To form government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the National Assembly. Overall, 169 seats are needed to secure a simple majority out of total 336 seats, which include reserved slots for women and minorities.

The drama is still unfolding in the coup-prone country as courts are flooded with complaints of poll rigging.

PTI supporters block Peshawar to Islambad highway as they protest the alleged skewing in Pakistan's national election results, in Peshawar on Sunday | AFP

# Delhi braces for farmers' protest tomorrow, borders fortified

UJWAL JALALI & JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AS farmers from neighbouring states are expected to enter the national capital on February 13 following their proposed 'Delhi Chalo March', the police have strengthened security arrangements across all border areas and imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in northeast Delhi.

Several farmers associations, mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, have called for a protest on Tuesday to demand a law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP), which they said was the condition to end their agitation in 2021.

The security forces are on high alert over concerns that the protest could create chaos and may turn violent. They have erected multi-layered barricades, fixed iron nails on roads, and installed barbed wires and iron rods between cemented barriers at different sites along Punjab-Haryana, Delhi-Haryana, and Delhi-Uttar Pradesh borders.

"Information has been received that some farmer organisations have given a call to their supporters to march to Delhi on February 13 for their demands for a law on MSP. They are likely to sit at the border of Delhi till their demands are met," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said in an official order.

He said that given the "kind of behaviour and adamant approach" farmers have shown during the protests in the past, there is a possibility of mobilisation, activities of farmers, supporters from their respective districts to Delhi along with tractor, trolleys, and even weapons.

**BOW-ING TO WIN HEARTS**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a bow and arrow by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during the Janjatiya Sammelan in Jhabua on Sunday | PTI

**SUMIT RUN**

NAGAL CLINCHES CHENNAI OPEN TITLE

Sumit Nagal beat Luca Nardi 6-1, 6-4 to win the Chennai Open — he did so without dropping a set. With this, he is set to enter top-100 for the 1st time in his career

# MLAs return to Patna for trust vote

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR legislators, who were corralled by their respective parties, have started returning to Patna to cast their votes on Monday's trust vote being faced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar — this time for the NDA.

Congress MLAs have returned from Hyderabad and are believed to be taken to RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav's house where he had gathered his legislators for the past two days. BJP MLAs, who were gathered in Bodh Gaya for a two-day training workshop, returned to the state capital.

Nitish needs the support of 122 legislators to win the trust vote. On paper, he has the support of 128 MLAs of JD(U), BJP, Jitan Ram Manjhi, and one independent in the 243-member assembly. BJP leader Haribhushan Thakur exuded confidence that they will win the floor test comfortably and said that the new government will complete its full term.

The Opposition's grand alliance has a total of 114 MLAs in its favour — eight short of the majority mark of 122.

The no-confidence motion against the Speaker will be taken up after the governor's address to members of the bicameral legislature on the inaugural day of the Budget session.

Bihar minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said the House will first take up the no-confidence motion against the Speaker, who is from RJD. Dy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari belongs to the JD(U).

**CAPF EXAMS IN LOCAL LANGUAGES**

In a first, the constable recruitment examination in the Central Armed Police Forces such as the CRPF, BSF and CISF will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English. The exams are being held from February 10 to March 7 and 48 lakh candidates are appearing

FULL REPORT: P9

# Shah to state BJP: Make plans to win all 28 seats

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

WITH Prime Minister Narendra Modi setting a target of 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections to return to power for a third term with flying colours, Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Sunday held an hour-long closed-door meeting to draw a road map for the crucial polls in Karnataka.

Shah, considered the Chanakya of BJP, set an agenda to win all the 28 seats in the state and wanted BJP core committee leaders to work on a road map and strategy to counter Congress toolkit and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's guarantee schemes and also to focus on the government's economic bankruptcy. The Core Committee devoted much of its time to devise a plan to corn the government both inside and outside the House.

Shah said Siddaramaiah himself has set a narrative for the Lok Sabha elections by holding a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, accusing the Centre of discriminating against Karnataka in releasing central funds.

**BJP picks Bhandage, not Rajeev, for lone RS seat**

Bengaluru: The BJP on Sunday announced Narayanasa Krishna Bhandage as the candidate for Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka. This belies speculation that the party would again choose Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar for the seat. P4

He said it is a conspiracy against nationalism by playing the regional card. He wondered what other plans Congress has in the run-up to the elections and asked BJP leaders to draw up a counter-strategy and to effectively reach people to expose failures of the government.

BJP leaders were told not to give Siddaramaiah a free run in carrying out a propaganda against BJP and to effectively counter it with figures on devolution of taxes and funds released by the Centre to the state, including grants for various programmes, as against the funds allocated by the UPA government. P4

**EXPRESS READ**

**Ten-day budget session starts from today**

Bengaluru: The ten-day budget session will start from Monday with Governor Thawaar Chand Gehlot's address to the joint house at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present the budget on February 16 and the session will conclude on February 23. The opposition BJP and JDS are gearing up to corner the government on many issues.

**GPS-based toll system pilot on B'luru-Mys NH**

Bengaluru: Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled national highway has been chosen for implementation of a pilot project focused on Global Positioning System (GPS)-based toll system. The project is expected to be introduced before the announcement of dates for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls | P2

# Coffee as career? Centre of Excellence proposed in B'luru

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

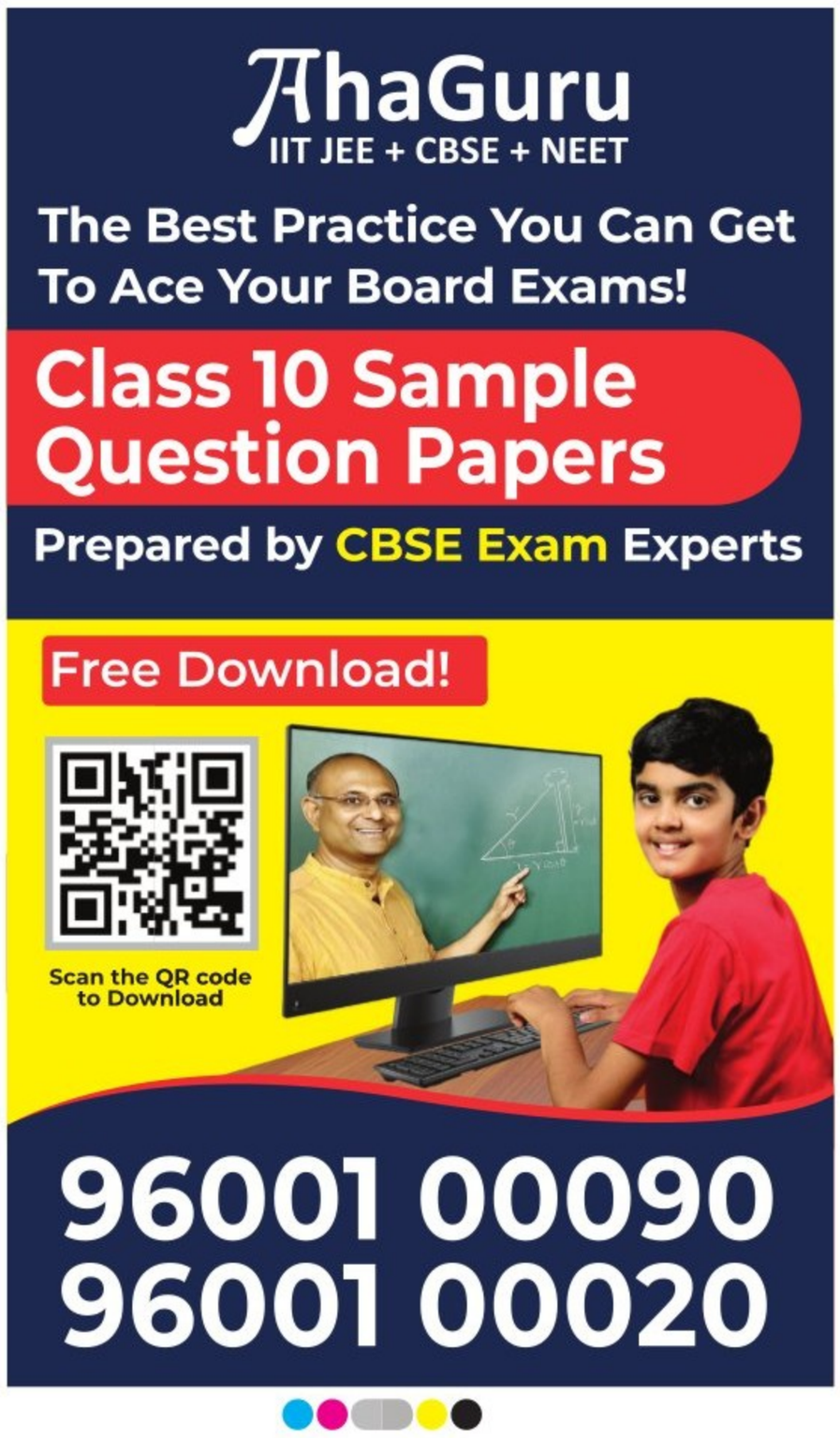
WITH coffee doing well on global price charts, there is an increasing demand for more skilled labour. To promote capacity building in this niche field, the Coffee Board of India has sent a proposal to the government to establish a 'Centre of Excellence for Coffee' in Bengaluru. Currently, the board has limited seats for its programmes and aims to introduce newer short-term courses for coffee enthusiasts.

Board Chief Executive Officer and Secretary Dr KG Jagadeesha said, "We run a one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Coffee Quality Management (PGDCQM), which is highly sought after. It is run in the Coffee Quality Division in Bengaluru and students also visit the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) in Chikkamagaluru for three months. Students get industry experiences such as visiting cafes, understanding roasteries and understanding the packaging and promotion. However, we can take only 15 individuals and the applications that come in are more than 500."

The applicants are thoroughly reviewed based on sensory evaluation, interview and academic records and should have a bachelor's degree in botany, zoology, food sciences, bioscience or agricultural sciences. The proposal submitted to the government is part of the five-year budgetary renewal during which the board lists down its vision and plans for the next term.

"The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal entails an exclusive centre for coffee and various skilling and upskilling programmes," Jagadeesha said.

CONTINUED ON: P7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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

# BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 12/02/2024 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrutheeya 10.32 pm
• Nakshatra: Purvabhadra 7.34 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 31°C
FORECAST
Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.43 am
Sunset 06.24 pm
Moonrise 08.37 am
Moonset 08.56 pm



Differences over platform length delay process

Pilot expected to be announced before LS polls

BMRCL to barricade Green Line platform at Majestic

## Fresh tender for stations for suburban rail proj to be called soon

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

WITH the tender to build railway stations for the only line of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) cancelled in November 2023, the next round of tender will be called by February-end. The three-month delay has probably been caused due to a sudden change in platform length proposed by a senior official of the nodal agency implementing the project, K-RIDE ( Rail Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka).

With State Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil recently fixing December 2027 as the revised deadline for BSRP, such a long delay in re-tendering is worrying.

K-RIDE sources said, "URC Constructions had quoted around Rs 800 crore to build 12 stations for the Mallige Line (Baiyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara). Our estimate was only Rs 400 crore. Since only a single bidder had qualified and the rate quoted was almost double, we cancelled the tender and decided to go for a fresh one."

"The new tender could have been called within days. But BSRP Project Director Rajesh Kumar Singh was keen on the length of the platforms of all the 58 stations to be reduced from 205 to 77 metre. The reduced length will accommodate only three-coach trains," said a source. The proposal was shot down twice by previous K-RIDE Managing Director Gaurav Gupta. "It was put forward again by him at a recent internal committee meeting with Managing Director Manjula who has been given additional charge here and other infrastructure officials. It was rejected by other members. The Director now plans to place the proposal before the K-RIDE Board meet, expected within a week to ten days," another source said.

TNIE was given access to the minutes of the meeting in which the proposal to reduce the platform length was made.

The Centre okayed the Detailed Project Report on October 7, 2020. "Attempting changes at this stage will only cause confusion," the source added. An official said, "The non-hiring of a full-time MD with a sound technical background is impacting every aspect of the project." A senior Metro official said the plan is to deploy nine-coach trains. "We will call for tenders soon after the Board meeting. We have added many aspects that were not part of the earlier tender like MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing), facade and a few other aspects," he said.

## Pilot of GPS toll system for B'luru-Mys NH

ENS @ Bengaluru

UNION Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled national highway has been chosen for implementation of a pilot project focused on Global Positioning System (GPS)-based toll system. The project is expected to be introduced before the announcement of dates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Replying to a question by BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya in the Rajya Sabha on Saturday, Gadkari stated that the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has appointed a consultant to provide advisory services for adoption of new technologies, such as the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)-based barrier-less free flow tolling.

Explaining the GNSS-based tolling system, the minister emphasized that it retrieves the vehicle's positioning on the highway and calculates user fee based on the distance travelled. The ministry plans to launch pilot projects, including on Bengaluru-Mysuru NH-275, showcasing the technology before the announcement of Lok Sabha polls.

### 742km rail network survey

In response to another question from Lahar Singh on suburban rail projects, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the sanction of the Final Location Survey (FLS) for a total of 742km railway network, to address the demands of commuters from satellite towns of Bengaluru.

Highlighting the progress made in the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), he stated that land acquisition for Corridors 2 (Baiyyapanahalli–Chikkabanawara - 25.01km) and 4 (Heelalige-Rajanukunte - 46.25km) is complete and construction is in progress for Corridor-2, with the recent awarding of tenders for Corridor-4. Additionally, survey work and geotechnical investigations have been completed for Corridors 1 (KSR Bengaluru City-Devanahalli - 41.4km) and 3 (Kengeri-Whitefield - 35.52km).

Further, Vaishnaw disclosed that the Railways has sanctioned the FLS for various projects totalling 742km, catering to demands of commuters from the satellite towns of Bengaluru. These projects include a new double-line circular rail network around Bengaluru city, quadrupling of Bengaluru-Tumakuru, Bengaluru-Mysuru and Bangarpet-Jolarpettai, and doubling of the Chikbanawara-Hassan line.

**BLOOMING BEAUTIES**

A vendor arranges flowers after the auction at the International Flower Auction Bangalore, Ballari Road ahead of Valentine's Day in Bengaluru | ALLEN EGENUSE J

## Sun allergy, Vit-D deficiency cases rise in Bengaluru

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN the previous decades, basking in the sun during the early morning and evening was considered a healthy practice, aiding in the body's Vitamin-D intake and benefiting the skin. But, now it has changed.

With rising temperatures, doctors are observing a surge in individuals with Vitamin-D deficiency and sun allergies. This concern has prompted caution among medical professionals, including orthopedics, dermatologist and oncologists, who are now hesitant to recommend sun exposure. Previously recommended durations of sun exposure, typically 20 minutes, have been reduced to 5-10minutes.

Dr Anagha Sumanth, dermatologist and dermo- surgeon, said many patients are approaching with allergies and deficiencies. They are now being advised to limit sun exposure for 5-10minutes on their upper back coupled with adequate application of sunscreen on exposed areas.

"The optimal time to sit under the sun is before 8am and between 3.30pm to 5pm, when the heat waves are not harsh. Around 95% of the Bengalureans are deficient in Vitamin-D," said Dr Avinash CK, orthopedist and Professor at Dayanand Sagar University. Dermatologists stressed that sunscreen does not cause Vitamin-D deficiency. "The number of people suffering from sun allergies including rashes, irritation, pigmentation and polymorphic light eruption is increasing. Around 20% of patients present such issues daily, children being the worst affected. Therefore, people are now being advised regular skin and vitamin level checks every six months," said another dermatologist from a leading private hospital.

"Though sun exposure is important for all of us, we must be cognizant of sun-related skin damage with rising temperatures. Limiting direct sun exposure between 10 am to 4 pm is advised during summer, with sunscreen (at least SPF 30 and capable of protecting from UV-A and UV-B rays) and protective clothing is recommended before stepping out to prevent sunburn and long term skin damage that can cause cancer," said Dr Narayan Subramanyam, oncologist, Sparsh Hospital.

EXPRESS READ

### IISc Open Day on Feb 24, IIA on Feb 25

Bengaluru: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is organising an open-day event on February 24 from 9 am to 5 pm, inviting students, science and technology enthusiasts, and general public to explore its campus and activities. The event will feature popular lectures, experimental demonstrations, poster presentations, quiz contests, scientific competitions, and exhibitions prepared by various departments and centres. This year, a children's zone promises special attraction for all youngsters. The event, which saw over 30,000 visitors last year, is free to enter. Similarly, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) will celebrate National Science Day by hosting its Open Day on February 25 at its Koramangala premises.

### IIM-B hosts pedestrian safety campaign

Bengaluru: The Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB), in association with the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru Alumni Association, organized an awareness campaign titled "STEP UP – A Run for Pedestrian Safety" to mark the "2024 Year of the Pedestrian" on Sunday. The campaign aimed to shed light on challenges faced by pedestrians and advocated for a pedestrian-centric policy rather than a vehicle-centric approach. Around 350 runners took part in the 5K and 2K run. This Step-up campaign also saw participation from Persons with Disabilities (PwD) children from EKA Inclusion.

### DRIVERLESS TRAIN RESUMES JOURNEY FROM KANCHIPURAM

The six-coaches of the driverless train from China, meant for the R V Road-Bommasandra Line of Bengaluru Metro, are expected to reach the Hebbagodi depot in the city on Monday morning. Customs clearance has been granted at Chennai Port and they have started their journey on trailers from there. A representative of Unitrans Shipping and Trading Private Limited, who shipped it on board MV Spring Mota from Shanghai port informed TNIE that the coaches left the Chennai port on trailers on Saturday by 10.30 pm after obtaining necessary clearances. Although the coaches travelled overnight, they were halted at Kanchipuram on Sunday morning due to daytime restrictions on heavy vehicle movement. "The coaches have been parked there temporarily. They are expected to resume their journey to Bengaluru during Sunday night. We expect them to reach Hebbagodi depot on Monday," a senior Metro official told TNIE.

A trailer with coaches of the driverless train departs from Chennai port | EXPRESS

Steel barricades installed on a platform at Majestic Metro station | EXPRESS

## Another platform to be barricaded by BMRCL

ENS @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the positive impact made by the steel barricades placed on Platforms 1 and 2 where the Purple Line trains operate at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro station, they will now be extended to the platform that connects the Green Line too, said a source at the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The barricades were installed a fortnight ago in the aftermath of two incidents last month - a woman jumping onto the tracks at Indiranagar station to retrieve her fallen mobile phone and another in which a youth attempted to end his life at Jalahalli station. A video by Bengalurean Yash Sugandhi on February 9 on the lack of alignment between the doors of the trains and the barricades inconveniencing the public went viral. However, Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, A S Shankar, said the incident captured was a one-off occurrence. "This particular incident happened as the staff were providing training in manual mode. We are running the trains in automatic mode. The trains stop such that doors get aligned to the gaps."

An official at the spot pointed out to a huge mirror in front of the tracks and said, "The train operator has a clear look at it before bringing the train to a halt and will adjust it accordingly." TNIE visited the barricaded platforms and interacted with security personnel and staff. "This has helped us streamline the crowd," was a common remark by multiple staff. "The material to install them on Platforms 3 and 4 too has arrived and we will start work from Monday," said a staffer.

Passengers too were quite happy about it. Namrata Patil said, "I think it is a good step, particularly for the safety of children." Her friend Pooja Belgonkar concurred. "However, it is doubtful whether it could prevent someone who wants to commit suicide"

### *REVA University holds Khel Khoj for students*

Bengaluru: REVA University on Sunday hosted the 2nd edition of 'Khel Khoj' around the theme of revitalising the traditional and indigenous games of the country. The event was inaugurated by Manjunath Prasad N, Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Empowerment and Sports Secretariat. He emphasised the importance of sports in a student's life and the need to revive age-old games. Participants engaged in over 35 indigenous games, including Lagori, Kancha, Gilli Danda, Chaupar, Silambam, and Mallakhamb, that are deeply rooted in various Indian cultures.

## Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

**12TH February : A mysterious Moon has an impact on the coming few days. Traditionally, this is a time when energy is low. It follows that we can all take some time off and postpone important initiatives until later. However, tradition also holds that, within a few days of the New Moon, we enter a perfect moment for setting up new enterprises and launching new projects.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Mercury, planet of communication, is about to take a hand in your finances. The moment is fast coming when you should lay firm plans for your future prosperity so it's time to get the facts and figures straight. Keep secret fears in perspective and seek reassurance as and when you need it.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There seems to be some sort of muddle, possibly triggered by the Moon's uncertain relationship to other significant planets. You may either postpone important engagements or, alternatively, approach them with considerably more determination than usual.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
In spite of your open and chatty reputation you are about to enter a more secretive phase, one when peace, quiet and seclusion will be of increasing importance to your general well-being. But, just for now, you still need to indulge your creative or pleasurable instincts.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
You've got a long memory - a very long one indeed! In many ways you are still dealing with the legacy of the distant past. Yet, although it's inevitable that you should feel nostalgia for what has been, you would be advised to get on with planning the future.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There seems to be a great deal going on which is difficult, if not downright impossible, to explain. You may have to accept the fact that it may be another few days before a number of questions can be answered. Still, you've got the time, so be patient.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You should now be back on form and determined to alter the pattern of your life. Lunar aspects may be raising stress levels but they also offer you the opportunity to form new relationships and emphasise the neglected social dimension. Besides which, there are many steps you can take to reduce tension.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Current challenging planetary aspects may put your nose out of joint but, then, you're such a perfectionist that it doesn't take much to disturb your equilibrium. The Sun's passage through a challenging region of your chart demonstrates the simple truth that the answer may lie in someone else's hands.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You're heading for a pleasant romantic phase. Relations with children and younger family members are set to improve and cultural pursuits are likely to take up more of your time. However, you're still unwilling to show your feelings, and your secrecy could be the cause of occasional misunderstandings.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You should keep your options open this week and do everything you can to bring underlying tensions into the fresh air. As a matter of interest, it does seem essential that you make it a priority to deal with financial issues: there's an outside chance that you could be overcharged.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The odds may be stacked against you today. Yet do not despair - all is not lost. It may be time for one of those clever tactical retreats that results in your position being stronger than ever. Perhaps it's also the right moment to call somebody's bluff.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Even if you're an ambitious professional Aquarian, family and domestic affairs will assume a high priority. At work you'll find other people looking to you for security, irritating as it may be to feel that you're being depended upon by people who should know better.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There is not long to go before emotional secrets are brought into the open. It will be a great relief all round when what was once unspeakable can be discussed in an atmosphere of happiness and harmony. Until then, make sure that your position is as secure as possible.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

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| 2 | 7 | | | | 3 | 6 | 9 | |
| | 9 | 4 | | | | 2 | | |
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| | | 7 | | | | 4 | 6 | |
| | 4 | 5 | 9 | | | | 2 | 3 |

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| 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 |

**SUDOKU HARD**

**TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE**

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

**CROSS WORD**

**ACROSS**
1 Reportedly joined but actually cut (5)
8 Sit dance out for an interval of separation (8)
9 Not immediately required to show mercy (5)
10 Giving speech, don't start being inaudible (8)
11 First job-finder for the unemployed (5)
12 The French maid's home address (3)
16 Think what people who count will do (6)
17 Free of charge? (6)
18 Mother checks the water (3)
23 Country involved in formal talks (5)
24 The Scriptures completely recorded we hear (4,4)
25 Amount of water I put in a car (5)
26 Put on grave attire? (8)
27 Old Irish characters around Omagh (5)

**DOWN**
2 Content with half the apples, relaxed (8)
3 Sets aside Tom's battlescars? (8)
4 Vehicle it is illegal to leave in the street (6)
5 Wrest apart and scatter (5)
6 Forger's block (5)
7 Unfinished book shelf (5)
12 As well as Dan could be (3)
13 Eccentric Scotsman standing on head (3)
14 Getting even by giving a bribe? (8)
15 Falls for queen (8)
19 I'm included in an American hostility (6)
20 Not desirable company it's said (5)
21 Back in half a second; a very brief space of time (5)
22 Declared it could be worse (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Originated, 6 Pier, 10 Sofia, 11 Meditated, 12 Cinefilm, 13 Earth, 15 Ragtime, 17 Chimera, 19 Despoil, 21 Corslet, 22 Ruing, 24 Sterling, 27 Unanimous, 28 Spill, 29 Even, 30 Stationery.

**Down:** 1 Oust, 2 Infringes, 3 Image, 4 Armoire, 5 Endemic, 7 Inter, 8 Rude health, 9 St Helier, 14 Trade route, 16 Iron grip, 18 Eglantine, 20 Last out, 21 Cresset, 23 Inane, 25 Lasso, 26 Play.

**JUMBLE**

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

BAILI
LYRUT
SMCIYT
LEWNUL

That's perfect! We're all done, and we used every last bag.
Wow! When you said we had all the bags we needed, you weren't lying.
12/15
WHEN SHE SAID THEY'D CLEANED UP 100 BAGS WORTH OF ROADSIDE TRASH, SHE MEANT IT ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FLEET LIMBO SHIMMY THRIFT
Answer: The old clock occasionally became inaccurate and needed to be reset — FROM TIME TO TIME

A 70-year-old man died when a crane rammed his two-wheeler in Jalahalli traffic police limits recently. The incident happened at Veera Sagara near the house of the deceased, Annappa, a coconut merchant. He was taking a U-turn towards his house when the crane rammed his scooter and ran over his right shoulder. Police registered a case and are yet to trace the crane driver

SAVE THE URBAN WILDLIFE OF CUBBON PARK
DOWN DOWN ALL BUILDINGS IN CUBBON PARK
REMOVE THE BUILDINGS FROM CUBBON PARK
GREENERY IS THE BREATH OF LIFE

**SAVE OUR SPACE**

Members of Cubbon Park Walkers' Association and volunteers protest against the government's approval for the construction of a ten-storeyed building on the park premises in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

# Tenants dupe 70-year-old woman, transfer property through 'gift deed'

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

TAKING advantage of a helpless 70-year-old woman afflicted with multiple ailments, a couple and another woman allegedly got her two-storey house transferred to their name through a 'gift deed' by taking her signatures on the pretext of getting her a Rs 30,000 per month widow pension.

The house belonged to Nirmala, a resident of HRBR Layout. The site was allotted by the Bangalore Development Authority to her husband, who passed away intestate. Nirmala, suffering from age-related ailments and having lost two of her three children, alleged that one K Sarah (27), and her husband Mohan Babu, entered into an oral agreement with her, securing the ground floor of the building for a monthly rent of Rs 15,000 and remitting an advance of Rs 70,000.

In the complaint lodged with the Banasawadi police recently, Nirmala alleged that she learnt from her neighbours that the accused had purportedly manipulated documents of her property. Apprising her second son and daughter-in-law of the situation, she alleged that the accused, on the pretext of helping her get a widow pension amounting to Rs 30,000 per month, obtained her signature on undisclosed documents. They also fabricated a gift deed in their favour, ostensibly aiming to divest Nirmala of her property.

Sensing trouble, Sarah and another accused Leema (49), residing at Sampanha Layout on Kammanahalli Main Road, approached a city court seeking anticipatory bail, claiming that the allegations were false, but admitted that they had the gift deed.

After hearing the parties, 27th Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge Hareesha A, on February 8, said though the counsel for the petitioners contended that the allegations were purely civil in nature, the perpetration of fraud against a woman senior citizen transcends the realm of a mere civil dispute.

"The adverse impact on the complainant, during the twilight of her life, is not to be dismissed lightly. The prospect of an elderly woman having to contend with the vexing task of safeguarding her valuable property in the face of alleged fraudulent activities underscores the gravity of the situation," the judge said while rejecting the anticipatory bail petition.

The judge further said that there is prima facie material warranting consideration, suggesting the petitioners' involvement in the offence, particularly for the retrieval of documents allegedly stolen from the complainant's residence.

## EXPRESS READ

### B'luru woman raped in Gangavati, hubby beaten

Koppal: A 21-year-old woman from Bengaluru, who was sitting with her husband in a park in Gangavati town, was allegedly raped, and her husband thrashed by a gang of six men. The incident was reported on the night of February 9 and a complaint was registered in Gangavati town police station on Sunday. As per the complaint, the couple was having an argument when the gang of six approached them. On the pretext of offering to resolve their differences, they held the husband captive and main accused Lingaraj allegedly raped the woman. The police have detained the six men. **ENS**

### Three on bike killed after rear-ending car

Bengaluru: Three men died on the spot after their bike rear-ended a car near Harohalli Lake in Ramanagara district around 9 pm on Saturday. Police said they were riding triple and allegedly overspeeding. Arun, 25, who was riding the bike, failed to notice the car ahead and rammed it. The incident left 64-year-old Ibrahim, who was driving the car, critically injured, police added. The other victims are Jobin, 27, and another man who is yet to be identified. All three were working at a factory in Harohalli Industrial Area," the police said. Arun was from Bihar, and Jobin from West Bengal. **ENS**

### Techie loses Rs 7.35 lakh to online fraudsters

Udupi: A system engineer working in an IT company in Bengaluru lost Rs 7.35 lakh to online fraudsters. The victim, Shivaprasad from Karkala, received a message on November 29, 2023, from a person who identified himself as Manjith Singh. Singh told Shivaprasad that 'Pyanthan Ventures' has started an investment company in India and he can invest his money for better returns. Shivaprasad later received a link and he joined a WhatsApp group using the same link. As he sent the money, he was removed from the WhatsApp group, making Shivaprasad realise that he had fallen victim to fraudsters. **ENS**

# Accused in chain-snatching case nabbed after 24 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

An accused in a chain-snatching case, who was absconding for 24 years, was arrested by Jayanagar police.

Gulab Khan

Police said in 1998, Gulab Khan, alias Gullu, was arrested after he was involved a chain-snatching case, and was released on bail. After his release, the case was shifted to the second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) court but ever since, he did not appear for any hearings.

The court issued summons, warrants and proclamations, and the case was pending for about 24 years.

Following proclamation orders, police started gathering information of his whereabouts and got information that Gullu was residing in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district. Based on credible information, police raided his residence in Tilak Nagar around 4am on February 3, and found that Gullu had been working with Kanakapura Town Municipality on contract basis.

Gullu was 22 years old when he committed the offence, and is 46 years old now. He was sent to judicial custody, police added. During questioning, Gullu admitted to his involvement in the crime and that he was absconding. Police used fingerprint verification to check if he had committed any other offences but found no case registered against him, a police officer said.

### MURDER SUSPECT YOUTH ATTEMPTS 2ND SUICIDE BID

Kolar: A murder suspect attempted suicide for the second time by jumping from the third floor of the RL Jalappa Hospital in Kolar on Sunday. He suffered grievous injuries and is being treated in the same hospital. The police said Nitin (26) is suspected to have killed a minor girl by stabbing her and slitting her throat. Later, he attempted suicide by slitting his throat but his parents rushed him to the RL Jalappa Hospital. According to a source, 20 days back, the parents of the deceased minor girl lodged a complaint with Malur police alleging that Nitin was eve-teasing their daughter, a class 9 student. On Wednesday, the parents of the girl lodged a complaint with Anagundahalli police that their daughter is missing . Subsequently, the police found the body of the girl. The police strongly suspects that Nitin would have killed her and attempted suicide. **ENS**

# THIEF SNATCHES MANGALSUTRA ON BOARD CHAMUNDI EXP

## Uses knife to cut gold chain; Mysuru family was returning home from Bengaluru

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A happy shopping outing in Bengaluru turned into misery for a family after a robber brandished a small knife and snatched a gold mangalsutra worth Rs 3 lakh from the mother when they were returning to their hometown Mysuru. The incident happened on board the Chamundi Express on Saturday night.

N Manjula (52) sustained minor injuries on her neck after the robber snapped the chain with the knife and jumped out of the train near Jnanabharati railway station. The mangalsutra and pendants weigh nearly 50gm.

Manjula sustained minor injuries on her neck

Reliving the nightmare, Manjula's daughter Nishkala Gowda, a homemaker, told TNIE, "I boarded the Chamundi Express at 6.15pm from Majestic station (KSR Bengaluru) with my mother and two sisters. We had reserved tickets and were seated near the door of coach D2. We had gone to Bengaluru from our residence at Nazarbad in Mysuru, to shop for a cousin who is getting married."

The sisters were engaged in conversation when the man struck. "We noticed a man near the door who was walking repeatedly in a suspicious manner, but were engrossed in our talk. My mother later told us that he was staring at her. The train left and was crossing Jnanabharati station, where there is no stop, quite slowly. I remember it was quite dark outside," Nishkala said.

The man made a dash for Manjula and drew a sharp blade-sized knife from his pocket. "He showed it to us and we started shouting in fear. In seconds, he cut her chain with it and jumped out of the open door. I remember him falling in the bushes. We were shocked and started crying," she said. There were only two men in the compartment. A passenger suggested they pull the emergency train and they did so. "The train came to a halt 500 metres ahead. It was near Kengeri station.

Government Railway Police and railway officials came and took a statement from the family. They told us such an incident was very rare on the Chamundi Express, and had happened over a year ago. A policeman advised us to return to Bengaluru and file a complaint," Nishkala said.

The family alighted at Ramanagara and took a return train to KSR, and filed a complaint at the GRP station by 10.15 pm. The complaint was converted into an FIR on Sunday afternoon. There has been no breakthrough so far.

**NIPPED IN THE BUD**

# MLA's letterhead, sign forged to seek RFO's transfer

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

THE letterhead and signature of S R Srinivas, Congress MLA from Gubbi in Tumakuru district, has been allegedly forged to get the transfer of a range forest officer (RFO) from Bengaluru to Tumakuru. Two youth had come to the tapal section at the office of Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre in Vikasa Soudha to allegedly give the Gubbi MLA's letter on his letterhead, which recommended RFO's transfer.

Growing suspicious, the tapal section personnel questioned them, but they both ran away. The letter sought the forest minister to transfer the RFO working at the Forest Training Centre at Kadugodi in Bengaluru to Pavagada Range in Tumakuru district.

The minister's personal assistant filed a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police recently, seeking action against the two unknown accused and the RFO, whose name is mentioned in the letterhead. After the police registered an FIR, the second accused in the case, Nandish (24), a resident of Deepanjali Nagar, approached the sessions court seeking anticipatory bail. Claiming that he is innocent, Nandish said that on the instructions of the first accused, he had gone to the tapal section of the forest minister's office without knowing the contents of the letter and that the MLA's signature had been forged. When the office staff of the minister tried to catch them, they ran away, he pleaded.

The public prosecutor opposed the bail petition, contending that there is prima facie evidence to show the involvement of the petitioner. Third Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge Nisharani AC on February 8 granted anticipatory bail to the accused imposing conditions.

**FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
(Under Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries)
**Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala-678623**
Notification No. **FCRI/P&A/2024/RE-N001 dated 09.02.2024**

**DIRECT RECRUITMENT FOR POST OF RESEARCH ENGINEERS**

| Name of Post | No. of Posts | Pay Level in Pay Matrix | Age Limit (Years) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Research Engineer | GEN-3 | Pay Level 10 | 35 Years |

**Starting date for Applications: 15 FEBRUARY 2024**
**Closing date for Applications: 31 MARCH 2024.**

**Qualification & Experience Criteria:**
B.E/ B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering with 5 year experience in specific areas OR M.E/ M.Tech. in Engineering with 3 year experience in specific areas and B.E/ B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering. Experience criteria as cited below:
1. **Post-1. MECHANICAL (Multiphase):** Experience in Two-phase flow/ Multi-phase flow research and experimental testing.
2. **Post-2. MECHANICAL (CFD/Thermal & Fluids):** Experience in CFD in Thermal & Fluids Engineering. The M.E/ M.Tech shall be in Mechanical Engineering (Specialization in Thermal & Fluids Engineering/ Fluid Mechanics & Thermal Engineering).
3. **Post-3. MECHANICAL (Valves/Thermal & Fluids):** Experience in design and testing of valves. M.E/ M.Tech shall be in Mechanical Engineering (Specialization in Thermal & Fluids Engineering/ Fluid Mechanics & Thermal Engineering).
**Mode of Selection:** Test / Interview
For details on Posts, application Form, etc., please visit **www.fcriindia.com**

Advertisement No. 11/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
**Director (Technical)**
**In**
**Bharat Coking Coal Limited**
Last date of submission of application by the applicant is
**05th March, 2024**
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is
**14th March, 2024**
For details login to website
**http://www.pesb.gov.in**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**
**U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE**
**CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP**
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017.
Phone: 080 2508-4156/4318/4185
**BRIEF TENDER NOTICE**

**1.On behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited for the following works:**

| Description | Details |
|---|---|
| Name of work | Replacement of faulty power cables and old distribution panel near Silver Jubilee Garden Area, URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bengaluru. |
| E-Tender Notice No. | URSC/C&MG/E/M/13/2023-24 Dt. 06/02/2024 |
| Estimated cost put to tender | ₹ 6.61 Lakhs |
| Tender Document Details | E-Tender |
| Period of completion in months | Four (04) Months |
| Period during which the tender document can be downloaded. | From: 18:10 Hrs on 09/02/2024 To: 23:59 Hrs on 26/02/2024 |
| Bid clarification | From: 19:00 Hrs on 09/02/2024 To:14:30 Hrs on 27/02/2024 |
| Last date of reply to Bid Clarification | Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 28/02/2024 |
| Last date and time for receipt of tenders | Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 29/02/2024 |
| Due date and time of opening of tenders | 14:30 Hrs on 29/02/2024 |
| Earnest money deposit (EMD) | **Rs. 13,220/-** |

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website : **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-
Group Director C&MG, URSC

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**
4th FLOOR, BSNL BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU-560001

(See Sec. 25 and Sec.29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act 1993 read with II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961)

**NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION**
**DCP No. 13083 IN O.A No. 1543/2015**

BETWEEN
CANARA BANK, MAGADI ROAD BRANCH .....CHB/APPLICANT
AND
SRI. S.T VASAN & ORS ..CDS/ RESPONDENTS

Certified Debtors
**1. Sri S.T VASAN,** S/o Selvam, Prop: M/s Sonyo Marketing, R/at: No. 1043, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru-560010.
**2. Mr. Marudayan,** No. 1030, 4th Block, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru-560010.

Whereas IN EXECUTION OF certificate **No. 13083** in **OA No. 1543/2015** drawn by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore the undersigned has ordered the sale of the under mentioned identified property/ies.
You are hereby informed that the 15th day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. you are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of property bearing New M.L. No. 17-B/14 (old No. 17-B), situated at 4th cross, 2nd Main road, KHB Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Ward No. 42, Bengaluru, measuring 24 X 40 feet of site, 700 Sq.ft of RCC roofed house in ground floor & 600 Sq.ft of RCC roofed house on first floor constructed thereon on the said site with all civic amenities and bounded on the: **East by :** Property No. 18-A, **West by :** Property No. 17-A, **North by :** 4th Cross road, **South by :** Property No. 10-A
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **17 day of February 2020.**

Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I, DRT-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My client by name Smt. S. SANTHAKUMARI W/o. Sri. S.Y.Reddy @ Sangana Yerra Reddy, aged about 44 years, residing at No. A309, A Block, Aspenwoods, Doddakammanahalli Main Road, Near Raja Aristos, Off. Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076 is the absolute owner of the residentially converted land bearing Survey Number 119/3, measuring 24 guntas (converted from agriculture to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 15-06-2017, bearing ALN(A)(A) SR/162/2016-17, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore) situated at Lakshmipura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District which is morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter called as a schedule property and on 06-04-2022 my client has lost the Sale Deed dated 03-07-2013, registered as vide document no.ANK-1-01655/2013-14, stored in C.D.No.ANKD355, Book-I, registered before the Sub – Registrar, Basavanagudi (Anekal) and hence my client has lodged the complaint before the Bengaluru City Police, Bengaluru on 08-02-2024 and the E-Lost Report No. **0923159/2024 and in the event if anybody got the above said original Sale Deed dated** 03-07-2013 may kindly be pleased to return the said Original Sale Deed dated 03-07-2013 to my client or requested to contact the below mentioned address.

My client intends to sell the schedule property to the intending purchasers for valuable sale consideration and if any person/s having any claim, right, title, interest, whatsoever over the Schedule Property may kindly be contact to my client or to the undersigned or to forward his/her/their objections in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen days) from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it will be deemed that, there is no claims, right, title or interest from anybody except my client and my client will proceed with the completion of the Sale Transaction in respect of the schedule property.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Survey Number 119/3, measuring 24 guntas (converted from agriculture to non-agricultural residential purpose vide Official Memorandum dated 15-06-2017, bearing ALN(A)(A) SR/162/2016-17, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore) situated at Lakshmipura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on;

East by : Land bearing Survey Number 119/4,
West by : Land bearing Survey Number 119/2,
North by : Land bearing Survey Number 118,
South by : Kaluve.

**(VENKATA REDDY .N)**
R.R.L. Advocates & Associates,
No.79/2, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara,
Agrahara Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road,
Bengaluru - 560040. Mob.: 9740356514

**KOLAR – CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT**
**CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES**
**UNION LIMITED., KOLAR**
[P.B No. 63, N.H - 75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331, 7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

**IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 10275 /2023-24 Date: 09.02.2024**

**** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Kolar - Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

| Sl. No. | Description of Material | Qty |
|---|---|---|
| 01. | Design,Supply, Installation,Testing and Commissioning of 2 MWp captive Agri PV solar generation plant on Turnkey basis at Holali Land of KOMUL. PART-2 | 01 Job |

Access to E-tender Documents : 12.02.2024 to 13.03.2024 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 13.03.2024, 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 15.03.2024, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website **https://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/-
M.D.KOMUL

**FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
(Under Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries)
**Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala-678623**
Notification No. **FCRI/P&A/2024/PO-N003 dated 09.02.2024**

**RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF PERSONNEL OFFICER ON DEPUTATION BASIS**

| Name of Post | No. of Posts [CATEGORY] | Scale of Pay | Age Limit | Tenure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personnel Officer | 1 [GENERAL] | Pay Level 10 in the Pay Matrix | 56 Years | 3 Years |

**Start Date for receiving Applications: 15 February 2024.**
**Last Date for receipt of Applications: 31 March 2024.**

Applications are invited for the post of Personnel Officer for appointment on deputation basis from the employees working in the departments of Government of India / Central Autonomous organisations / Central Universities / Indian Institutes of Technologies / similar Central Govt. Institutions including IISc / IISER / NIT / CSIR / DRDO /ISRO / other Research Institutions following Central Govt. Rules, etc.
**(1)** Essential Qualifications: (i) Must be a graduate in any discipline from a recognized university; (ii) Holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent cadre/ Department or with two years regular service in posts in the Pay level 9 or equivalent in the parent cadre/ Department; or with five years regular service in posts in the pay level 8 or equivalent in the parent cadre/ Department.
Desirable Qualifications: (i) A bachelor degree in law is preferable. (ii) The candidate should possess wide knowledge on the central government rules and regulations viz., Fundamental Rules & Supplementary Rules, General Financial Rules, orders on reservation policy of the Government of India, various Central Civil Service Rules regarding Pay, Allowances, Conduct, Discipline, Leave, Medical Attendance, etc.
(iii) He/ She should also be well versed with the Labour Laws. **(2)** Only Indian Nationals need apply. **(3)** Please visit FCRI website **www.fcriindia.com/career** to download application form and follow the instructions before applying. **(4)** The Application Form duly filled up along with following Annexures in the specified Proforma are to be submitted through Proper Channel, to reach us on / before the notified due date: (i) Annexure-A: Details of penalties, if any, imposed, on the applicant during the last 5 (FIVE) years. (ii) Annexure-B: Vigilance clearance in respect of the applicant duly signed by an officer of appropriate level. (iii) Annexure-C: Certified copies of ACRs/ APRs for the last 5 (FIVE) years. **(5)** Canvassing in any form will be render the application as disqualified. **(6)** Candidate shall ensure that their Applications **Through Proper Channel** are received at FCRI before closing Date through REGISTERED POST/ COURIER, addressed to: **The Director, Fluid Control Research Institute, Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala-678623. (7)** Applications NOT forwarded through Proper Channel OR Applications not enclosing the full information / Annexures will be summarily rejected.

JDS state youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday clarified that he will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Mandya. According to political pundits, Nikhil is starting to prove himself as the future commandant of JDS

# NEEDS, HOPES & BUDGET 2024

There are a lot of expectations from the state budget to be presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on February 16. The New Indian Express team takes a look at the aspirations of people from across Karnataka

1 COASTAL KARNATAKA

## Enhance connectivity, improve roads

DIVYA CUTINHO & Prakash Samaga

TO encourage sustainable development of trade and commerce in Dakshina Kannada region, Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Chairman Ananthesh V Prabhu has suggested better Bengaluru-Mangaluru connectivity. KCCI also suggested that the State government build an all-weather world-class motorable road through Shiradi, Charmadi and Sampaje ghats, better train connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru, Madgaon, Mumbai and North Karnataka, and also more flights between Mangaluru and Bengaluru/Mumbai.

Beach tourism promoter Yatish Baikampady urged the government to build artificial reefs all along the coast. "In the budget, the government must provide permission for floating restaurants with liquor licences, extended business hours in Mangaluru, incentives for transport operators for late night operations and financial assistance for national and international level conferences organised in the coast."

Dilraj Alva, former president of Dakshina Kannada Bus Owners' Association and entrepreneur, has demanded modernisation of the transport and tourism sector. "New investments on vehicles for public transport, ideas such as e-mobility and smart mobility in Tier-2 cities should be encouraged to make public transport lucrative for the people."

President of Malpe Fishermen Association Dayanand Suvarna said the quantity of subsidised diesel sold to fishing boats should be hiked from the present 2 lakh KL to 2.5 lakh KL. Last time, the budget allotment for the fisheries department was Rs 272 crore, and in this budget, the allocation should be increased to Rs 1,000 crore.

2 BENGALURU

## Complete pending projects, implement BMLTA

MOHAMMED YACOOB

PROJECTS like white-topping of roads, stormwater drain works, flyovers and other works announced earlier should be completed, said urban expert and member of Brand Bengaluru Task Force V Ravichandar.

"Funds should be allocated to complete these projects. There is no point announcing a grand project when earlier ones are incomplete," Ravichandar said. The focus should also be on public space improvement. "The budget should focus on community activities like art, culture, and literature," he added.

Srinivas Alavilli from the World Resource Institute observed that the government should implement the Bangalore Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill 2022, passed by the previous government. It will help better coordination between civic agencies and executing an urban mobility plan. "In the budget speech, if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah covers implementation of BMLTA, this will pave the way for sustainable urban transport and integration of land use and transport planning in urban areas," said Alavilli.

Experts also highlight the staff crunch in civic agencies and setting up of the Karnataka Municipal Engineer Service (KMES) which will help in recruiting engineers for 12 municipal corporations across Karnataka. "The BBMP is facing a shortage of at least 500 engineers, and those coming on deputation from the Public Works Department will have to return to the parent department after three years of service. Hence, the government should look at setting up KMES," said Alavilli.

BIG PICTURE

3 KITTUR KARNATAKA

## Develop tourism sector, industrial zones

FIROZ ROZINDAR & TUSHAR A MAJUKAR

VIJAYAPURA, a historic city known for its mesmerizing monuments of the Adil Shahi era, could be used to attract tourists from across the globe to increase the State's revenue. But in the absence of proper focus and limited budgetary allocation, this sector has remained largely neglected.

Historians and heritage activists have been urging governments to allocate funds for the improvement of the tourism sector, which could not only address the unemployment issue significantly but also add to the State's exchequer. It also has one of the largest reservoirs in the State with water storage capacity of over 123 tmcft, but the water has not been utilized fully for providing irrigation facilities to the district.

Social activist Ashok Chandargi said there are a lot of expectations from people in the Kittur Karnataka region. Traffic problems have been a major issue for Hubballi-Dharwad, and measures need to be taken. The Mahadayi drinking water controversy is a long-pending issue. There is also a demand for establishing separate DCC banks at Gadag and Haveri, and for the establishment of an Ayurvedic college and research centre in Kappatagudda.

Rohan Juvali, former president of Belgaum Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said a dedicated industry zone for foundries, new Foundry Park on over 500 acres of land and 2,000 acres of land for all other engineering industries should be developed in Belagavi district, as promised in the winter session of the assembly held in December 2023 at Belagavi.

4 OLD MYSURU

## Need industrial townships, modern canals

K SHIVA KUMAR & B K LAKSHMIKANTH

THE aspirations of people of Old Mysuru region are high and various. Kolar is hopeful of a government medical college, an industrial township near Mulbagal that is close to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and also Tamil Nadu. Tumakuru expects an increase in allocation of funds for Upper Bhadra and Yettinahole projects that will help fill up tanks in the district. Plans for an international airport in Tumakuru have raised hopes. In Ramanagara district, people have high expectations for the Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir project, other than revival of Vrishabhavathi river and an industrial township near Magadi, to generate employment for locals and funds for the Government Medical College in Kanakapura.

The prevailing drought situation and release of 40tmcft of water from the Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir have made farmers look for financial assistance from the government. Krishna, a farmer from Mandya, said the government should announce a minimum of Rs 40,000 per acre for farmers in the Cauvery basin. People in Chamarajanagar district want the government to take up the second phase of tank-filling projects, funds for basic infrastructure to tap tourism potential, and more residential schools in tribal areas.

People expect the government to start work on Film City and set up a tourism centre and international convention centre to further promote tourism that has generated direct and indirect employment. Mysuru Industries Association (MIA) secretary Suresh Kumar Jain said their demand is that the government resumes the long-pending proposal to build a Mysuru Export Centre in Hebbal Industrial Area.

SESSION STARTS

# No phone jammers now, 5G to get more MLAs into House

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

AFTER decades, one can freely access mobile phones without the intrusive jammers inside and around the legislature from Monday.

Speaker UT Khader, who oversaw the arrangements for the budget session starting from Monday, told TNIE that jammers which used to be activated when the Assembly and Council were in session for decades have been done away with and there is no problem in making or receiving calls now.

Also, 5G wifi service has been activated inside Vidhana Soudha and legislators can use their tablets and handheld devices on the premises. He said a technical team has completed the project. Debugging of the 5G service has been completed and it shows the signal strength to be excellent. These are part of the initiatives to increase participation of members in the sessions and to involve all in the decision-making process. Asked if gadgets can be misused, he said, "We trust and believe all our legislators are responsible."

Khader said he would like to start the sessions early, by 8.55 or 9 am. "Legislators get ready by about 7.30-7.45 am and then they meet their constituents or attend some functions or meet government officials with regards to work of their constituents. But they end up late for the sessions. When the session starts early, they will come in and participate," he added.

On his concerns over newcomers to the House, Khader said, "This is now the fourth session since this government has been formed and they are not really newcomers. We had arranged training for them."

He said the secretariat has contacted well-known eateries around Bengaluru to serve breakfast to legislators. This will prevent them from going in search of restaurants in the morning, he added. Asked if the session on Monday will begin early, he said it is the prerogative of the governor. "After that, we will try to start the sessions early," he added.

Kiran Gajanur, assistant professor of Public Administration at Central University of Karnataka, said, "The Lok Sabha elections are approaching and most of the people's representatives are engaged in election preparations. This might impact the participation at the sessions. But the Speaker and his office are making sincere efforts to bring people's representatives into the House. With the 5G network in the Assembly, people's representatives can make use of the technology to be engaged with constituency work."

The Assembly Hall in Vidhana Soudha being readied on the eve of the budget session on Sunday | EXPRESS

5 KALYANA KARNATAKA

## Need special industrial policy

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI

KALYANA Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Shashikant Patil and Secretary Manjunath Jewargi urged the government to announce a special industrial policy for the region. The State government should allocate its share of grants for the Mega Textile Park in Kalaburagi, which was already announced. They have sought funds for the installation of rooftop solar panels for newly constructed APMC yards.

Zilla Krushik Samaj president Sidramappa Patil Dangapur said Agriculture University Raichur has already recommended that the government establish a Forest College at Chincholi in Kalaburagi district. In the budget, the government should announce establishment of the Forest College in Chincholi, he said.

Founder president of Kalyana Karnataka Horata Samiti Lakshman Dasti wants the government to announce the establishment of a Skill Development University in Kalyana Karnataka, announce a separate industrial and agricultural policy for Kalyana Karnataka region and provide Rs 8,000 crore this year to KKRDB. The government should earmark funds for completion of the third phase of works of the Upper Krishna Project, and ask for special grants from the Union government. The government should earmark its share for establishment of the Railway Division in Kalaburagi, and ask the Union government to set up the Railway Division in Kalaburagi, KK Horata Samiti said.

6 CENTRAL KARNATAKA/MALNAD

## Establish areca research station

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI

THE economy in many districts of this region revolves around areca. Over the past several years, areca has been hit by the yellow leaf disease and leaf spot disease that has disturbed areca growers, especially in Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts. The government has to support horticulture scientists to address these two major diseases. Farmers expect the government to establish a full-fledged areca research station. Coffee planters are pushing to bring coffee under agricultural products.

Despite Central Karnataka region being well connected by rail and road, and an airport in Shivamogga, it lacks industrial development. The State government has to take initiatives to increase investments in the region. Major among them is announcement of a special economic zone at Davanagere for a textile park, technology park and logistics airport so that pressure on Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, is reduced.

The people of Chitradurga want the government to speed up the Tumakuru-Davanagere direct railway line land acquisition process, set up a silk park at Molakalmuru, SEZ for textiles and clusters for operation of the logistics park.

Measures to develop a vaccine against Kyasanooru Forest Disease and provide title deeds to bagair hukum cultivators and Sharavathi evacuees, with support from the Central government, are among the demands from Shivamogga. There is also a demand for sanctioning a government engineering college at Chikkamagaluru.

## *BJP PICKS BHANDAGE, NOT RAJEEV, FOR LONE RS SEAT*

Bengaluru: BJP on Sunday announced **Narayanasa Krishna Bhandage** as the candidate for Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka. This belies speculation that the party would again choose Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar for the seat. Bhandage, who hails from Bagalkot, was associated with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and Sangh Parivar for long, and had also taken part in the Ayodhya movement, party sources said. He has served the party in various capacities, including secretary and vice-president. A strong OBC leader, he was also an MLC earlier. In Karnataka, Rajya Sabha polls will be held for four seats. Congress is expected to retain all three seats, while BJP will win one seat comfortably. At present, Rajeev Chandrasekhar is representing Karnataka as Rajya Sabha member. **ENS**

DROUGHT RELIEF

### Rs 628 crore released to 33 lakh farmers

Bengaluru: A day before the legislative session, Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda announced that the state government has released Rs 628 crore as compensation to drought-hit farmers. In the first installment, Rs 2,000 has been released to each affected farmer. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Byregowda said they have released partial compensation to 33 lakh farmers and the process of streamlining the bank accounts of 1.6 lakh farmers is going on. Once it is done, the government will release funds to these farmers as well. The minister said to bring transparency in disbursing compensation, all gram panchayat offices have been instructed to make public the list of farmers who got the amount. **ENS**

# CM CHALLENGES SHAH TO PUBLIC DEBATE ON GUARANTEES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday challenged Union Home Minister and BJP top leader Amit Shah for an open debate on the Congress government's guarantee schemes, which are being targeted by state BJP leaders. He timed his statement to Shah's visit to Mysuru on Sunday.

"Shah is saying the treasury is empty because of the guarantees. If this is Shah's firm opinion, he should participate in a public debate with me. I can prove that our treasury is not empty because of the guarantee schemes; instead, there is an unfair distribution of taxes from the Centre to the state. This is also a challenge to Amit Shah," Siddaramaiah said in a media release.

"BJP leaders who oppose the guarantee schemes in Karnataka are promising to implement the same in the states they are governing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who opposed our guarantee schemes, has now stolen not only our guarantee schemes but also the name 'guarantee' and is advertising under the same name. This shows the anti-poor stance and intellectual bankruptcy of that party," he said.

From the PM to Shah to local BJP leaders all are anti-poor and from time immemorial, BJP, Sangh Parivar and RSS have opposed schemes meant for the poor as they had opposed the 'Garibi Hatao' implemented by late prime minister Indira Gandhi, he said. "They have always opposed social justice including land reforms and reservations and hence the poor should give a fitting reply to them," he said.

"The central government, which refused to provide rice required for the Anna Bhagya scheme, is now selling the same rice under brand Bharat. It had refused to provide rice at Rs 33 per kilo when we asked, but is now selling it at Rs 29 per kilo. Which means the BJP has intolerance towards the poor, farmers, women and workers of Karnataka," he alleged.

He also came down on Shah in a series of posts on 'X', stating, "Home Minister @AmitShah looked down upon Kannadigas as he is talking against our guarantee schemes. Opposing the Kannada flag, trying to impose Hindi, the audacity to impose Amul on Nandini were all the achievements of Amit Shah."

## Work in tandem: Shah to BJP-JDS leaders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THOUGH there was no discussion on sharing of seats between BJP and JDS, who have allied for the Lok Sabha elections, Shah advised leaders of the two parties to work in tandem to win big in the state. He was specific about winning in the Old Mysuru region, considered the home turf of Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shiva Kumar.

Shah at the cluster meeting, attended by prominent leaders from Mandya, Mysuru, Hassan and Chamarajanagar Parliament constituencies, stressed on winning all the four seats in the region to reach the Prime Minister's target of 370 seats for BJP and 400 for the NDA block.

Core Committee member CT Ravi said seat sharing did not come up for discussion as it will be raised during the NDA meeting. The core committee will draw a road map after the national executive committee meeting, while the parliamentary committee will decide on candidates for the elections, he said.

Home Minister Amit Shah felicitates sculptor Arun Yogiraj in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

"Siddaramaiah, while making allegations against the Union government, has announced that he will quit public life if the figures are wrong. I hope he is nearing retirement in politics. He has lied in public, but he cannot do it inside the House as it will attract privilege," Ravi said.

On discrimination in allocation of funds, Ravi said the Niti Ayog and Finance Commission have decided the percentage of funds to be allocated to states, but southern states have politicised the issue. He said there is a clear understanding between BJP and JDS leaders, and it will be percolated down to the cadres.

He alleged that both the CM and deputy chief minister are in a race to loot the state.

सत्यमेव जयते
Goverment Of India

# EMPOWERED YOUTH STRENGTHENING THE RESOLVE OF 'VIKSIT BHARAT'

## For appointment of youth in Government through Rozgar Mela

**Distribution of appointment letters to more than 1 lakh candidates selected for Government jobs across the country**

by

**Prime Minister**

# Narendra Modi

on

**12 February 2024, 10:30 AM**

**(via video conferencing)**

Government of India, in collaboration with the Partner State Governments, creating new job opportunities

Special benefits to women, specially abled persons and candidates from Aspirational Districts

Easy, fair and transparent selection process

All appointments through agencies like UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board and IBPS

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DD NEWS Watch the live telecast of the event on DD News

For more information related to training, visit the KarmaYogi module website at https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/ or scan the QR code.

CBC19101/13/0020/2324

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**OPEN E-TENDER (TWO PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE**

**Name of Work:** Rate contract for deployment of Manpowers for Electrical Projects as and when required basis in all over India. **Notice No: KR/CO/EL/MANPOWER/T/20/23, Dated: 12.02.2024. Completion Period:** 24 (Twenty Four) Months. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 21,72,55,893/- including GST. **Bid Security:** Rs. 12,36,300/-. **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender: 04.03.2024** up to **15:00 Hrs. Opening of Tender:** On **04.03.2024** at **15:30 Hrs**. Amendments/ Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents:** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

**(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)**

No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)/MNG/EE(O)/AEE-2/2023-24/6518-23 Date: 08.02.2024

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

**(KPPP mode only)**

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works:

**(1) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0456 for Providing 3 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **110kV Station, Bejai**, in Mangaluru Taluk and DK Dist. on Contract basis.(CALL-2)

**(2) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0044 for Providing 3 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **KPTCL Stores, Kavoor** in Mangaluru Taluk and DK Dist. on Contract basis.(CALL-2)

**(3) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0045 for Tender for Providing 3 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **220kV Station, MSEZ, Bajpe** in Mangaluru Taluk, DK Dist on Contract Basis. (CALL-2)

**(4) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0047 for Providing 4 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **220kV SRS, Kavoor** in Mangaluru Taluk, DK Dist on Contract Basis. (CALL-2)

**(5) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0048 for Providing 3 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **220kV Station, Netlamudnur** in Bantwala Taluk, DK Dist on Contract Basis. (CALL-2)

**(6) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/SE0049 for Providing 3 Nos Security Guards to Watch & Ward duties at **220kV Station, Kemar** in Udupi Taluk, Udupi Dist on Contract Basis. (CALL-2)

**(7) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/TL/WORK_INDENT8 for replacement of damaged 400kV DB+0 wind zone-2 towers by new tower at location no.21 of 400kV Udupi-Hassan Line coming under TL&SS Division Kemar, Karkala in Udupi Taluk, Udupi Dist on TTK basis. (CALL-2)

**(8) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/IND0064 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 7Nos of 33kV, 800A, 25kA with capacitive trip device SF6 Circuit Breakers, required to the Substations of TL&SS Division, Kavoor of Mangaluru Transmission Circle.

**(9) Bid Enquiry No.:** KPTCL/2023-24/IND0065 for Design, Manufactuing, Testing and Supply of 96kV, 10kA Heavy Duty Metal Oxide Lightening Arrestors, Polymeric type with discharge class-2 and 3 for various Sub-Stations coming under Mangaluru Transmission Circle.

The bids will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "**tenders**" on or **after 12.02.2024.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Maroli, Kulashekara, Mangaluru-575005, Ph: 0824-2211342.**

## Telangana State Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation, Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad - 95. Telangana State
( An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization)

1. Tender Notice No.3 /2023/DIG/TSMSIDC, Dt.09.02.2024
2. Tender Notice No.5/2023/EQU/TSMSIDC, Dt.09.02.2024
3. Tender Notice No. 14/2023/Medicine/MW/TSMSIDC, Dt. 09.02.2024
4. Tender Notice No. 15/2023/Surgical/MW /TSMSIDC, Dt. 09.02.2024

Above mentioned tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement, supply of following under Rate contract for a period of Two Years:-

**T.No.3:-** Diagnostic Equipment and Kits & Reagents,
**T.No.5:-** Equipments
**T.N 0.14:-**Medicines,
**T.No.15:-** Materials & Supplies (Surgical) and Any other items related to Covid-19.

Managing Director, TSMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Web site: **https://tender.telangana.gov.in** from 12.2.2024 onwards. Sd/- Managing Director

DIPR No : 926-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

## BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: RBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur Dt., West Bengal.
Phone No.: 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No.:03227-280744 / 280222

**OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)**

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tenders through MSTC Portal: -

1. **SUPPLY OF AIR CARGO CHARTER SERVICES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY SENSITIVE SECURITY MATERIAL; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/29/23-24/ET/45 [AIR CARGO CHARTER SERVICES]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 030/SAL/PUR/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹651.08 LAKH]**
2. **DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND TESTING OF 5 NOS. AIR HANDLING UNIT AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/24/23-24/ET/33 [AIR HANDLING UNIT]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 019/SAL/MMD-MAINT/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹75.50 LAKH]**
3. **RENOVATION OF FLOORING WORKS AT OLD AND NEW CISF BARRACKS AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/30/23-24/ET/46 [FLOORING WORKS AT CISF BARRACKS]; BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 020/SAL/MMD-CIVIL/2023-24; [ESTIMATED COST – ₹72.00 LAKH]**

Last date of tender submission – **15.03.2024 by 11:00 Hrs.** For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com**. Tender details are also available at our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further extension or amendment/s, if any, shall be uploaded on the above websites.

*Senior General Manager*

**FORM NO. 14:** [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pincode - 560001

**DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

**RC115/2021** 18/03/2021

**Canara Bank, S.M.E. Branch,** Mahadevapura, Whitefield Road, Bengaluru - 560 048. **...Certificate Holder**

-- Versus --
Sri. C. Johnson

To
**1) Sri. C. Johnson,** S/O. Sri. Chinnappa, Proprietor of: M/s. Vinay Wood Works And Packing, Bommenahalli, Budigere Cross, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru - 560 049. **...Certificate Debtor**
**Residing at:** No. 78, 5th Cross, Sai Rama Layout, K.R. Puram Post, Bengaluru - 560 036.
**Also at:** No. 87, 21st Cross, Basavanapura Main Road, Gayathri Layout, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 036.
**Also at:** No. 44, 2nd Cross, Ashwini Layout, Seegehalli, Bengaluru - 560 036.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA/1574/2019** an amount of **Rs 52,60,071.00 (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Sixty Thousands Seventy One Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **18/03/2021.**

**Sd/- Recovery Officer-1**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1)**

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
4th FLOOR, BSNL BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU-560001

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II,
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, BANGALURU

**WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**(See Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 31 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961)**

**DCP No. 13083 IN O.A No. 1543/2015**

**BETWEEN**
**CANARA BANK, MAGADI ROAD BRANCH .....CHB/APPLICANT**
**AND**
**SRI. S.T VASAN & ORS ..CDS/ RESPONDENTS**

**Certified Debtors**
**1. Sri S.T VASAN,** S/o Selvam, Prop: M/s Sonyo Marketing, R/at: No. 1043, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru-560010.
**2. Mr. Marudayan,** No. 1030, 4th Block, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru-560010.
**To**
**Smt. Vanitha V Gadiyar, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, Magadi Road Branch, Bengaluru**

Whereas the above named Certificate Debtors were ordered by the Recovery Certificate of this Tribunal passed in **O.A. No. 1543/2015** to pay to the Applicant the sum of **Rs. 20,25,769/- (Twenty Lakhs twenty five thousand seven hundred and sixty nine only)** along with future interest and costs and whereas the said has not been paid by the CDs.

This is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed and unless the said shall pay to you the above said sum and the costs of this attachment to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the Warrant with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of property bearing New M.L. No. 17-B/14 (old No. 17-B), situated at 4th cross, 2nd Main road, KHB Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Ward No. 42, Bengaluru, measuring 24 X 40 feet of site, 700 Sq.ft of RCC roofed house in ground floor & 600 Sq.ft of RCC roofed house on first floor constructed thereon on the said site with all civic amenities and bounded on the: **East by :** Property No. 18-A, **West by :** Property No. 17-A, **North by :** 4th Cross road, **South by :** Property No. 10-A
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **17 day of February 2020.**

**Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I, DRT-1**

## CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Chola – Enter a better life
**Corporate Office :** "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru. Vi.Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
**Branch Address : 2nd Floor, No.1143, MIG, 16th B Cross Rd, 2nd Stage, B' Sector, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka, Karnataka 560064**

**POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the company described herein below of the Columns on the respective dates mentioned in Column [E] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited,** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13[8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

| Sl. No. | Name and Address of Borrower & Loan A/c No. [B] | Date of Demand Notice [C] | Outstanding Amount [D] | Date of Possession [E] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| [1] | Loan Account No. HE01AAA00000019579<br>**(1) Thimmaiah Ananth, (2) Lakshmi Narayanappa Rajeshwari,** both are Residing at : No.13/2, Ananth Nilaya, 5th A Cross, Hanumagiri Layout, Chikkalasandra Bangalore-560061. | 10.11.2023 | Rs. 42,32,486/- as on 10.11.2023 and interest thereon. | 09.02.2024 Symbolic |
| | **Description of the Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing HI No.13, Khatha No.3/A, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 Feet, Situated At Hanumagiri Layout, Chikkalasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Presently within the Limits of BBMP and Bounded On : East by Site No.12, West by Site No.14, North by Road and, South by Site No.40, within the Registration District of Bangalore and Sub Registration Office. | | | |

**Date: 12.02.2024** **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
**Place : Bangalore** **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited.**

**FORM NO. 14:** [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore

**DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

**RC 91/2021** 25/02/2021

**Canara Bank (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank)** Whitefield Branch, Immadahalli Main Road, Vinayaka Layout, Whitefiled, Bengaluru - 560 066.
Represented By Its Chief Manager Mr. Nikhil Goyal **...CERIFICATE HOLDER**

Versus
M/s. Lavanya Enterprises

To,
**1) M/s. Lavanya Enterprises,** Represented By Its Proprietrix Smt. V. Pushpa, W/o. Mr. Muniraju, Mo. 132/1, FCI - Main Road, Ramegowda Nagar, Channasandra, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru - 560 067. **...CERTIFICATE DEBTOR**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA/892/2019** an amount of **Rs 14,23,052.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Three Thousands Fifty Two Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **date: 25/02/2021**

**Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1)**

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

**FORM NO. 14:** [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore

**DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

**RC 254/2021** **08/07/2021**

**Canara Bank, SME Peenya Branch,** No. D-473, 13th Cross, 4th Phase, Rotary Udyog Bhavan, Peenya Industial Area, Bengaluru - 560 058. **......CERTIFICATE HOLDER**

Versus
M/s. S.R. FASHIONS

To
**M/s. S.R. Fashions,** Represented by its Proprietor, Smt. Revathi, W/o. Sri. Gopala krishna, No. 65/2A, 1st Floor, Anagha Enclave, Pipe Line Road, Hoysala Nagar, Sunkadakatte, Visvaneedam Post, Bengaluru - 560 091.
**Also at:** No.69, 1st Floor, Managanahalli, Udaya Layout, Janashree Nagara, Ullal Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 056. **...CERTIFICATE DEBTOR**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA/1294/2019** an amount of **Rs. 38,03,400.00 (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Three Thousand and Four Hundred Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **date: 08/07/2021.**

**Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER -II**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1)**

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

**FORM NO. 14:** [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pincode - 560001

**DEMAND NOTICE**

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

**RC 226/2021** 06/07/2021

**Canara Bank, SME Mahadevapura Branch,** Octagonal Hall, Ksiidc Building, Dyavasandra Industrial Estate, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560 048. **...Certificate Holder**

-- Versus --
M/S. AJITHI ENGINEERS AND OTHER

To
**1) M/s. Ajithi Engineers,** Represented by its Proprietor: Sri. Raju S., No.79, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Lakshmisagar Layout, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru - 560 098.
**2) Sri. Raju S,** S/o. Sri. Sarvanan, Residing At No.20, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Lakshmi sagar Layout, Mahadevapura Post Bengaluru - 560 098. **...Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the & Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA/1499/2018** an amount of **Rs. 40,94,342.00 (Rupees Forty Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Two Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **06/07/2021.**

**Sd/- Recovery Officer-II**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1)**

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

## JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

**Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

# E-AUCTION NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.**

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

| Sr. No. | Loan Account Number | Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor | Date of 13-2 Notice | Date of Possession | Present Outstanding balance as on 07.02.2024 | Date & Time of Inspection of the property | Reserve Price in INR | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR | Date and Time of E-Auction | Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 45359420001046 | 1) Manjunath G, 2) Sowmyashree C | 14.12.2022 | 14.03.2023 | Rs.17,77,049.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Forty Nine Only) | 19.02.2024 Time: 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM | Rs.39,69,000/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Only) | Rs.3,96,900/- (Rupees Three Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Nine Hundred Only) | 29.02.2024 @ 02:00 PM | 28.02.2024, Till 05.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., Head Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071 |

**Details of Secured Assets: Item-1:** All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.52 Property No.380/52 formed in Sy.No.59/1 and 59/2 E-Khatha No.150300701100400483 measuring East to West 12.8016 meters and North to South 8.5316 meters in all measuring 109.25 Sq.meters and situated at Kempalinganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, now presently comes under Vishweshwarapura Gram Panchayath limits and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.53, **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private property. AND
**Item-2:** Property bearing Site No.53 property No.380/53 formed in Sy.No.59/1 and 59/2 E-Khatha No.150300701100400484 measuring East to West 12.8016 meters and North to South 8.5316 meters in all measuring 109.25 Sq.meters, Situated at Kempalinganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, now presently comes under Vishweshwarapura Gram Panchayath limits and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.54, **West by:** Property No.52, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Bhaskar Naidu Contact Number: 8142000809/ 8142000061. Email id: info@bankauctions.in / subbarao@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob No.9590858249), Mr. Umesh (Mob No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

**Date: 12.02.2024, Place: Bangalore Rural** **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

## IN THE COURT OF THE V ADDL PRINCIPAL FAMILY JUDGE AT BANGALORE
**MC. No: 6271/2023**

**BETWEEN: Mr. Girish N. Rao,**
S/o Mr. Nagaraja Rao, Aged 43 years, R/a No. 112, 12th Cross, 3rd Phase, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085 .....Petitioner

**AND**
**Smt. Rinky Tandon,** W/o Sri. Girish N. Rao, Aged 42 years, Teacher in English, Golden Bee School PM Building, No. 41, 4th Main, Bannerghatta, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076. ........ Respondent

**Notice to Respondent**

Take notice that the above petition is filed against you by the petitioner U/s.13 (1) (i a) Hindu Marriage Act, for divorce.

The hearing of the said case is on 8th March 2024 at 11 o clock forenoon. You are hereby directed to appear on that day before the Court, personally or through your advocate, to answer the same, failing which the matter will be disposed of placing you ex-parte.

Given under the hand and seal of the Court on this the 20th day of Dec, 2023

**Advocate for Petitioner:**
**Annapurna Bevinje**
**#50/1 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthnagar**
**Bangalore-560004**

**By the Order of the Court**
**Senior Sheristeder,**
**Family Court, Bengaluru**
**Date : 08.02.2024, Bengaluru**

## DECLARATION ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES
**Format C-1**

(As per the judgement dated 25th Septembeer, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & ors. Vs.Union of India & Anr.)

Name and address of Candidate : **A.P. RANGANATHA,**
Agara, Thataguni Post, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 062.
Name of the political party : **Janata Dal (Secular)**
Name of the Election : Karnataka Legislative Council
Name of the Constituency : Bangalore Teacher's

**I, A.P.Ranganatha,** a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

A) Pending Criminal Case

| Sl. No. | Name of Court | Case No. and dated | Status of Case(s) | Section(s) of actsconcerned and brief description of offence (s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I Addl Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore. | **PCR No. 10252/2022 Dated: 14/06/2022 In C.C.No. 18618/2022 Dated: 16/06/2022** | Pending<br>Stayed by Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Crl. Ptn. No.7488/2023 | Section 188 of IPC and 103 of K.P. Act.<br>Took part in giving a press note along with the like-minded persons on 30.05.2022 in front of City Civil Court, Bangalore, to voice disconcertment against the Text Book Revision Committee, with respect to the chapters of Kuvempu, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar and Basavanna were missed out in the Text books, for the same the PSI of Halsuru Gate Police has filed a Private Complaint No. 10252/2022 before the Learned I Addl.C.M.M. Bangalore, under Section 200 of C.P.C. seeking permission to investigate for the alleged commission of offences under Section 188 of IPC and 103 of K.P.Act |

## Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98,Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV,Gurgaon-122015.(Haryana) and **Branch Office at:- "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Auhorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

| Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower (s)/ Guarantor(s) | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset | Date of Physical Possession | Reserve Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Mr. Srinuivas Naidu<br>2. Mrs.Vidya Srinuivasnaidu<br>(Prospect No. IL10005342) | 23-Jun-2022<br>Rs. 32,43,789/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Nine Only)<br>**Bid Increase Amount**<br>Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Only) | All that part and parcel of the property bearing Flat No 406 4Th Floor ,Area admeasuring 206 Sq.Ft., of undivided share ,right title and interest in land compromised in schedule property,having super built-up area 1030 Sq.Ft.,having RCC roofing along with electricity, water and sanitary connection with car parking area in stilt floor, Green View , Kammasandra Village, Hebbagodi Grampanchayat Attibele Hobli Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, 560100. | 26-Aug-2023<br>**Total Outstanding as On Date 05-Feb-2024**<br>Rs. 32,20,844/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Only) | Rs. 26,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Only)<br>**Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)**<br>Rs.2,60,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Only) |

| Date of Inspection of property | EMD Last Date | Date/ Time of E-Auction |
|---|---|---|
| 23-Feb-2024 1100 hrs -1400 hrs | 26-Feb-2024 till 5 pm. | 28-Feb -2024 1100 hrs.-1300 hrs. |

**Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.**
**Note:** Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For balance payment, upon successful bid, has to pay through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:-9902879xxxxx followed by Prospect Number, d) IFSC Code:- SCBL0036001, e) Bank Address: Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-**

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www.iiflonehome.com**, well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit **25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours** of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- auction.hl@iifl.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499**
7. **For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- auction.hl@iifl.com**
8. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
9. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
10. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

**15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

**Place:- Bengaluru , Date: 12-Feb-2024** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.**

Following the hospitalisation of 20 residents of Guntur, a five-member committee has been constituted to investigate the issue of contaminated water. Meanwhile, Health Minister Vidadala Rajani and DC Venugopal Reddy held a review meeting with health and municipal officials

BJP national president JP Nadda is welcomed at the public meeting in Chennai on Sunday. Tamil Nadu BJP chief Annamalai looks on | SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

# Nadda: DMK has little respect for democracy

## DMK stands for 'Dynasty-Money Swindling Kattapanchayat'; poor leadership: BJP prez

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

ADDRESSING a public gathering in Chennai after participating in BJP's state president K Annamalai's "En Mann-En Makkal" pada yatra, BJP's national president JP Nadda criticised the DMK and said that, according to him, DMK stands for "Dynasty-Money Swindling Kattapanchayat" (Kangaroo court).

Nadda claimed that the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc was formed solely to protect the families and properties of opposition party members.

Speaking about the conferring Bharat Ratna award to agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan, he said that the BJP leaders always recognise the contribution of Tamil Nadu in the nation building.

He further added that MS Swamination not only did a (green) revolution but also brought food security to the country. Underlining the significance of Tamil Nadu, JP Nadda said that Tamil Nadu has a very rich culture, rich in tradition and has the oldest language. He further added that Tamil Nadu has contributed to arts, literature and craftsmanship, science and technology, and TN's contribution can never be forgotten.

Despite praising Tamil Nadu's rich culture, he added that the rich state has a poor leadership at the moment.

"I am sorry to say, that the DMK leadership is a very very poor. It lacks wisdom and does not have anything (in the brain he implied by touching his forehead). It doesn't have a basic feeling of respect for democracy," he said angrily.

He criticised the police for trying to create hurdles for Annamalai's rally. Describing the roadshow, JP Nadda said, "The deployment of a huge police force reminded me of the emergency days." he added "Is this democracy? Is this the tradition of Tamil Nadu? When it is not the tradition of Tamil Nadu, such leaders should not be a resident of Tamil Nadu," he roared.

During his address, JP Nadda highlighted that Tamil Nadu has a very special place in the hearts of BJP leaders in general and the heart of Prime Minister Modi in particular.

"Tamil Nadu is very special to him (Modi). Whenever he went and represented India on international platforms he recited the saints and poets of Tamil Nadu and Tamil literature," recalled Nadda and went on to say the placing of Sengole which was brought from Tamil Nadu which is the symbol of justice and symbol of service.

Speaking about the achievements of the Modi-led BJP government, he said, "We gave transparency in the administration. People-centric administration, accountable administration, we change the political culture of the country."

# Explain 'reduction' in deemed forests: Ministry to K'taka

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has asked the Karnataka government to provide details on the alleged reduction of deemed forests in the southern state.

The letter, dated February 6, 2024, signed by Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) Praneetha Paul, was sent to the additional chief secretary, Forest, Environment and Ecology department.

The letter, a copy of which is with TNIE, states that the office had received a representation alleging that the Karnataka government had de-notified deemed forest land measuring 6,64,694.18 hectares from 9,94,881.11 hectares, without prior permission under Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The authorities are requested to examine the issue, including the status of affidavits filed before the Supreme Court, and land that was marked for non-forest use, the letter reads. The ministry also sought a report from the state at the earliest.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Brijesh Kumar Dikshit said that in August 2022, a report was submitted before the Supreme Court, detailing areas with survey numbers of the extent of deemed forest and areas that were removed. According to it, the deemed forest in Karnataka is 3,30,186.93 hectares. "If there was anything wrong, the apex court would have raised objections. However, the ministry has sought details, which will be submitted," he said.

Dikshit said the areas were removed based on the criteria listed by courts and the ministry on what qualifies as a deemed forest, including that land should be free from litigation, have no ownership or transfer, should not be a forest patch, area has less than 50 trees per hectare and many others. There were also cases (measuring 43,357.50 hectares) where government land was not available in the survey numbers. A committee was also formed to assess the deemed forests and 7,73,326.91 hectares were not included in the deemed forest list. Nothing was done secretively, he added.

An environment department official said this does not mean the status of deemed forests can, or will be, changed. "We can make additions or deletions to the existing list of areas identified as deemed forest, after submitting an interim application to the Supreme Court. The government can take part of the deemed forest, only after seeking clearance from the Central government under the Forest Clearance Act. Under no circumstances will there be a reduction in the area identified as deemed forests," the official added.

HAPPY AND GAY

Gender rights activists and LQBTQIA+ community members attend a Pride walk, Queer Swabhiman Yatra, in Hyderabad on Sunday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

# Parent files plaint against M'luru school teacher over derogatory remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

AFTER a teacher from St Gerosa School in Mangaluru allegedly made derogatory remarks against the Hindu religion, a complaint was filed at the Mangaluru South police station on Sunday.

A parent of a student from the school has filed the complaint, accusing the teacher of portraying the Hindu religion in poor light, with an intention to convert children in the school to Christianity. The complaint also seeks strict action against the teacher and the school.

In the meantime, BJP MLA Y Bharat Shetty called upon Hindus to refrain from admitting their children to schools run by Christian missionaries. In a statement, he said this is not the first time that anti-Hindu sentiments have been expressed at a Christian missionary school.

"In the past, they have discouraged Hindu students from wearing flowers and bangles or sporting tilak (bindi). Now, they have conspired to spread hatred about our gods," he alleged.

He warned protests will be held if the school management fails to initiate strict action against the teacher.

# Won't contest from Mandya, reiterates Nikhil

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

JDS state youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday clarified that he will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Mandya.

In his electoral debut, Nikhil, son of former CM HD Kumaraswamy and grandson of former PM HD Deve Gowda, had lost to Sumalatha Ambareesh from Mandya in the 2019 LS polls. In the 2023 Assembly elections, Nikhil lost to Iqbal Hussain of the Congress from Ramanagara.

According to political pundits, Nikhil is starting to prove himself as the future commandant of JDS and the political heir of Gowda and Kumaraswamy. Evidently, on Sunday Kumaraswamy took time off, owing to his poor health, forcing Nikhil to hold a meeting of JDS digital media workers at the party headquarters.

On Kumaraswamy not meeting Amit Shah, who is in Mysuru, Nikhil said, " My father Kumaraswamy has some health issues and is resting. So, he is not meeting Shah. Kumaraswamy had informed Shah about this," he said. JDS and BJP are in an alliance to fight the LS polls.

On Siddaramaiah accusing the Centre of disparity in share of Central taxes, Nikhil said, "The Finance Commission is an autonomous body that works independently. The Centre will make decisions based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission. But the Congress leaders are using this for their political gain. They are misleading people."

On former Hassan MLA Preetham Gowda (BJP) opposing JDS' claim for both Hassan and Mandya seats, Nikhil maintained that one should be patient as the BJP high command will put an end to it. "After back-to-back defeats, Nikhil seems to have come of age. He has taken time off to organise the party and his decision not to contest will help him tour the state along with BJP leaders ahead of the LS polls," said a JDS leader.

# 'Will train 5K grads to make espresso'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"EVEN these 15 people who pass PG Diploma are placed in multinational companies within days and some even go to the Middle East with promising career opportunities. We need more seats as the market is expanding," Jagadeesha explained. The board is awaiting approval and has also requested for a new facility to hold classes for at least 100 select students.

It is also looking at several upskilling initiatives in the next five years and training around one lakh women from rural areas and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to make coffees the right way.

"We are also going to train 5,000 graduates on how to make espresso coffee and help them explore the opportunities in the coffee business," the CEO said.

There is a severe shortage of baristas in the industry. Coffee Board has also introduced a programme of training 1,000 baristas in the next three years and has already trained 150 so far, he added. The short-term course for coffee enthusiasts, called the 'Kaapi Shashtra', for the year is tentatively scheduled for March 18-22 (exclusive batches) and interested individuals can keep a watch on the website. The main objective of the programme is to impart skills related to latest technologies in coffee roasting.

# Forest team unable to dart Belur Makhna, to resume mission today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kozhikode

FOREST officials temporarily called off their efforts to tranquillise and capture Belur Makhna, the wild elephant that trampled a farmer to death at Padamala in Mananthavady on Saturday, after they could not find an apt opportunity to dart the radio-collared jumbo on Sunday. The drive will resume early on Monday, the authorities said.

Meanwhile, irate residents gheraoed the forest personnel while the latter were returning after concluding the day's efforts at Mannundy near Bavali around 5.30pm. The protesters raised concerns about their safety as the elephant was still free. They relented after forest officials promised to take suitable measures, including patrolling, for their safety. Forest officials had faced similar protests by residents at Bavali and Kattikulam too.

Protesters surround Wayanad DFO Shajna A, at Bavali on Sunday

Taking into account the jumbo's movement and people's safety, the forest department has deployed 13 teams led by section and beat officers to carry out patrolling in affected areas. Night vision drones will be used to monitor the areas.

Besides, police patrol teams will also be on watch. As a precautionary measure, the Wayanad district collector has declared holiday for educational institutions in Thirunelly grama panchayat and divisions 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Mananthavady municipality on February 12.

Around 150 forest department personnel, led by five divisional forest officers, and four veterinary officers led by Dr Ajesh Mohandas are part of the mission to capture Belur Makhna.

### Elephant kills 63-year-old man

Bengaluru: In yet another incident of man-elephant conflict, a 63-year-old farmer lost his life after a wild elephant attacked him, while he was going to his farm on Sunday morning in Kodihalli village, Kanakapura. The police said that Raju was attacked and trampled by a male elephant when he was going through Mugguru forest, on his way to water his farm, at around 5 am. Raju collapsed moments after the elephant attacked him with his trunk. After the incident, the forest officials visited the spot, and the Kodihalli police registered a case.

# Pradhan: Collaboration key for 'Viksit Bharat'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

UNION Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday called for a collective effort towards a 'Viksit Bharat' emphasizing the need for a supportive ecosystem and inter-connectivity among institutions and stakeholders.

Launching the transformative 100-Cube startup initiative of IIT Bhubaneswar's Research and Entrepreneurship Park, Pradhan made a strong pitch for a redefined model of education focused on research, innovation and entrepreneurship with an emphasis on student-faculty partnerships. He called upon the faculty of IIT Bhubaneswar to lead by example, fostering collaborations with other institutions and industry professionals to propel India's startup ecosystem onto the global stage.

Asserting that innovation is in the DNA of Odias, the minister said it is quite evident in the architectural marvels of Konark temple.

He envisioned a bright future, noting the dynamism of the youth and their potential, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat'. He called upon industry captains to visit the campus with their problems and encourage entrepreneurs to find solution.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

# *Career counselling for 250 underprivileged children*

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

FACED with a plethora of options, many youngsters are often confused over what field they should pursue for a successful career. To help students find their calling, over 250 children from various child care institutions (CCIs) across several districts of Karnataka were provided career counselling by industry experts in Bengaluru, recently.

This is the first time that such an activity was conducted for vulnerable and underprivileged groups, including orphans, disabled, children who have committed petty crimes or been through sexual atrocities and are in observational homes, who are typically devoid of opportunities for professional guidance. NGO Mind and Matter, in collaboration with the Directorate of Child Protection (ICPS) and Department of Women and Child Development, organised the career guidance programme featuring 40 industry professionals such as vice-presidents and CEOs of leading MNCs, founders, engineers and entrepreneurs.

Short sessions were also arranged to introduce students to unconventional career paths, facilitated by filmmakers, psychologists, dancers, singers, artistes and architects.

Participants were grouped into smaller units, each assigned dedicated panellists to cater to individual interests and questions. Volunteers from the organisation who are trained by the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, conducted activities to assist children in building their psycho-emotional and social competencies. Mindfulness meditation sessions were also incorporated to help children realise their aspirations and the steps to manifest their dreams.

"Children were keen to know about entrepreneurship and enlisting in the Army. They had several questions on how to get financial support if they wanted to pursue higher education. These children are mostly confined within CCIs and do not interact much with potential guides. Several psychologists also took sessions on how to manage exam stress and deal with anxiety," said Anu Subbappa, Mysuru coordinator, Mind and Matter. She added that the event was organised as these 250 children will soon appear for their Class 10 or second PUC exams.

The government extends an aftercare programme to support CCI children who join the mainstream after completing 18-21 years and in special cases up to 23 years, offering financial aid, skill development, and fostering financially independence.

EXPRESS READ

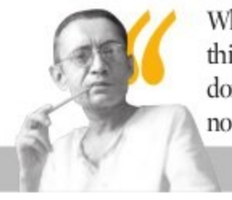
### Bogus voting probe: 4 policemen suspended

Tirupati: Four police officials have been suspended on charges of lackadaisical investigation into the complaints of large-scale irregularities in voter enrolment during the high-stakes Tirupati Lok Sabha by-election held in 2021. This comes close on the heels of suspension of Annamayya district collector PS Girisha, who was Municipal Corporation of Tirupati (MCT) Commissioner at the time of the by-election, MEPMA assistant director Chandramouleeswara Reddy, the then deputy commissioner of MCT as per the directives of the Election Commission of India.

### Patient bitten by rats in ICU of govt hospital

HYDERABAD: A 43-year-old patient undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a state-run hospital in Kamareddy was bitten by rats, which has prompted an enquiry into the incident, health officials said on Sunday. The patient suffered rat bites on the fingers of the right hand and the back of his heel on Saturday, his attendant informed the patient's doctors, they said. The patient, who had earlier undergone a surgery at a hospital in Hyderabad had later been shifted to Kamareddy and admitted in the ICU at the hospital a week ago in an unconscious state, a health official said.

# EDITORIAL



Who am I to remove the clothes of this society, which itself is naked. I don't even try to cover it, because it is not my job, it is the job of dressmakers

Saadat Hasan Manto

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## LS POLL TO DECIDE BETWEEN NCP LEADER AND PRETENDER

THE Election Commission of India last week took away the party name and symbol from the founder of the NCP, Sharad Pawar, and handed it over to his nephew Ajit, to settle an ownership tussle within the fragmented party. The EC applied three tests - one on the aims and objectives of the party constitution; two, whether the party constitution was followed; and three, that of majority. As for the first two tests, both sides weren't in dispute, so they cancelled themselves. In the test of majority among the MLAs, MLCs and MPs, the Ajit faction had a much bigger strength—51 as against 28 with Pawar senior. The respective clout within the organisational wing couldn't become a determinant as the party's 2022 polls were seen as disputed. The Sharad Pawar faction could not establish the point that the NCP's apex structure was constituted as per the party's stated constitution - through elections. Almost all posts were filled through nominations by the patriarch, which became a disqualification.

In the end, the ambitious upstart managed to bulldoze his way into capturing the family heirloom, though Sharad Pawar hasn't framed it in such stark terms. That is the difference between the Baramati powerhouse and Sena's Uddhav Thackeray. Uddhav went full tilt against Eknath Shinde for engineering a split in the Shiv Sena to snatch the chief ministerial chair, thus wresting control over the organisation. But for reasons best known to him, Pawar sought to send out mixed signals. It's not for nothing that people say politics in Maharashtra begins and ends with Pawar. However, it has weakened his standing in the opposition INDIA bloc. Ajit bolted so as to realise his ambition of becoming chief minister, assuming he would quickly step into Shinde's shoes following a judicial fiat, but that hasn't happened yet.

The EC's verdict came ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls for seven seats in Maharashtra. Given the numbers at his command, the Ajit faction holds the advantage. The real test for both the Pawars—as also for Uddhav and Shinde—would be the Lok Sabha elections possibly in April-May. People will then decide who is the leader and who is the pretender. Voters will also convey if they are comfortable with BJP's Operation Lotus and what they think about the recent incidents of lawlessness in the state. The outcome could as well set off tectonic shifts in the muddled Maharashtra politics we see today.

## TWO SIDES TO INDIA'S CONSUMPTION STORY

INDIA'S so-called K-shaped economic growth has a new name: premiumisation. Most consumer companies—auto, FMCG, white goods, etc—are witnessing this trend. FMCG firms are seeing rich and upper middle class customers lapping up premium products. Auto companies are lining up fancy SUVs that cost upwards of ₹15 lakh but still have long waiting periods. Smartphone makers are launching mobiles pricing ₹50,000 and above. Even liquor manufacturers are lining up one premium brand after the other.

All these show that one segment of Indian consumers is thriving, splurging, and indulging in luxury life like never before. On the flip side, a majority of Indian consumers are holding on to their purses. The irony is hard to miss, which was aptly described by the head of an FMCG firm recently as the polarity between booming premiumisation and tepidness of mainstream.

The launch of premium products across segments might give a false sense of confidence to corporates as well as policymakers that consumption is back on track. This can't be further from the truth. In its latest report, consumer intelligence firm Nielsen flagged the decline in consumption in rural markets in the October-December quarter and an even more pronounced fall in urban markets. Earlier this year, the government released the first advance estimates of GDP growth in FY24 showing consumption growth at 4.4 percent—the lowest in 20 years. The income disparity in the country has been aggravated by high inflation, especially food inflation. The government's efforts to promote local manufacturing by levying high taxes on imported goods have also resulted in higher prices for many domestically produced goods. Though most Indians do not pay any income tax, the high incidence of indirect taxes—GST, VAT, excise, etc—affects all.

Income disparity has only gotten starker and the same can be gauged by the fact that only 10 percent of working individuals earn more than ₹25,000 a month. The stagnant growth in minimum wage is further worsening the situation. The Union government's stipulated minimum wage for unskilled labour is ₹176 a day, which has not been revised since 2017. This needs correction. The government needs to go beyond free ration and provide better health and education facilities to make a considerable impact on the living standards of people. Those at the bottom of the pyramid need support to escape the vicious cycle of deprivation and the society at large must also stop vilifying them as 'freeloaders'.

QUICK TAKE

### THE OTHER NUMBERS TO NOTE

WHILE politicos and pundits pore over the seats and vote shares won at the recent Pakistan polls, another set of numbers paint a particular picture of our neighbour. The median age of Pakistani voters is 22.7. They seem to like the 71-year-old Imran Khan over the 74-year-old Nawaz Sharif and 35-year-old Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. This and the recent Bangladesh elections show that, unlike in some other parts of the world, age might be a minor issue in subcontinental politics. What mattered was that Imran's tech-savvy campaign captured the youth *zeitgeist*. Those in India wanting to make capital of the age issue should think twice.

The cricketer-turned-politician has upset the Pak Army's well-laid plans. What the power players do next will decide how the nation emerges from its economic mess

## IMRAN BOWLS SURPRISING SWING AT OPPONENTS

NEENA GOPAL
Foreign policy analyst

SOURAV ROY

THE people of Pakistan have spoken. And if the results being projected by a man that the Army has not been able to bend to their will is even half-way true, the winner in Pakistan's critical 2024 national polls is not Punjab strongman and three-time former prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif or prime ministerial hopeful Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of the Pakistan People's Party, but the Pakistan Army's arch nemesis, Imran Khan Niazi. The results were announced some 60 hours after polls closed on Thursday.

Imran's runaway victory at the hustings, despite being jailed for eight months and his party made electorally ineligible, has thrown a huge question mark over an electoral exercise that the vast majority of Pakistanis see as 'state-managed'. The worries are compounded by a highly suspect internet shutdown during counting, supposedly initiated to "prevent violence".

Fingers are being pointed at the Army led by Imran's bete noire Gen Syed Asim Munir and his Inter-Services Intelligence cohort, Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum, for the 'manufactured' poll results—charges that both have denied.

Imran is preparing to unleash a fresh round of street protests to challenge the PML-N-PPP coalition government being put in place at the Army's prodding, despite the political stalwarts' shockingly poor performance in their former stomping grounds. The irony that political leaders who know first-hand what it is to be on the wrong side of the military—and history—are preparing to sup at the same table as the men in khakhi, is lost on no one.

Given the serious charges and jail terms slapped against Imran for espionage and leaking state secrets, and despite getting bail which is no more than a move to offset international condemnation of his continued incarceration neither the US nor the UK can be seen as condoning, there's little likelihood that he will be released from jail. But even from behind bars, he has upset the Army's applecart, forcing it to scramble to contain the fallout from the elections that are being questioned not just within Pakistan, but in major world capitals.

Despite the PML-N winning only 75 seats, Nawaz Sharif, the 74-year-old political tour de force, who had been removed from office in 2018 but welcomed back to the political fold to counter Imran, announced victory and laid claim to a historic fourth term in office. Within hours, the Army's nemesis appeared in an AI-generated image and laid claim to form his own government. Imran's claim? He won "a landslide victory" in "an unprecedented fightback". "We are winning in more than 170 seats in the National Assembly," he said on his X account.

By late Saturday, his party, the tech-savvy Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), was questioning the slow vote count as an attempt to deprive PTI-backed independents of victory. They sent out numbers based on the Form 45 notices on the votes cast posted outside booths by the poll panel.

From claiming victory in 98 of the 245 seats counted by Friday evening, as opposed to 69 by the PML-N and 51 by the Pakistan People's Party, the PTI on Saturday upped that number to 99 seats. By late Saturday night, PTI was flooding social media with grandiose claims they had won 183 seats, the PPP 41 seats and the PMLN a mere 17, with the Jamaat-ul-Islam Fazlur winning 2 seats, and similar tallies of one and two to a host of smaller parties.

As Nawaz reaches out to the young and untested Bilawal and his far cannier father Asif Ali Zardari through his brother and former prime minister Shahbaz Sharif, few recall the large-hearted Nawaz and the pragmatic Benazir Bhutto's deal in 2006-07, overseen by Washington and the then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

This time, Nawaz has a far trickier path to navigate as the IMF deal negotiated by his brother Shahbaz's government rides on projecting a steady, savvy hand at the tiller. But while it's clear PTI's final numbers of 101 electoral winners, who all fought as independents, cannot form a government, it hasn't stopped the wily Imran from throwing a ticking bomb under Gen Munir's bus. He would like nothing better than for it to explode and show up his arch-enemy for stalling his unexpectedly strong showing at the hustings.

The incarcerated populist won the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and seats in Karachi. He is challenging Nawaz's win in his home seat of Lahore. He has fed off a strong anti-American, anti-establishment, anti-dynast sentiment in his country to garner these votes. This is an electoral impasse that no one, least of all Gen Munir, saw coming.

But as this fractured mandate that Imran has now counter-engineered shows, he cannot be dismissed as an aberration, a footnote, as the Army would like to. The fact that PTI leaders who abandoned Imran are now electoral write-offs is one message that must be taken on board. Second, Imran's independents are a potent third force, one he will guard against poaching by PML-N for a multi-party coalition.

Imran has opened communication lines with the Zardari-Bhuttos, offering to back Zardari as president and Bilawal as prime minister, in return for a free pass out of a lifetime in prison. If the Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement agrees to play on Imran's team, the game could change in the *Kaptaan's* favour.

Gen Munir—unlike his predecessor Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who had hand-picked Imran for political office overlooking the cricketer's hedonist, narcissistic streak that impeded good governance—knows that Imran's popularity cuts across gender, age and community. With his own term coming to an end in a year, Munir, a Shehbaz Sharif appointee hand-held by a Washington frowning on Imran's return, also needs a pliant prime minister to extend his own term.

Imran had famously blotted his copybook with impolitic critiques of Washington's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, alienating Pakistan's mentors, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He also upset Washington by calling for neutrality in the Ukraine-Russia war when he arrived in Moscow on the day Vladimir Putin launched the war.

Imran, holding off on unleashing his street power to arrive at a backroom deal with the establishment, looks unlikely. He seems more inclined to pressure the establishment, emboldened after the US State Department called for an investigation into "claims of election interference or fraud in Pakistan" and US politicians called for a probe into the electoral process.

For Gen Munir as much as Mian Nawaz Sharif, everything rides on putting in place a stable government that not only keeps the Sharif political legacy alive, but leads Pakistan out of the economic morass. Imran Khan, the wild card, could upend all that and more. *(Views are personal)*

*(neenagopal@gmail.com)*

## FENDING OFF RAM'S CRITIQUES

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH Sri Ram constantly in the news, let us take the bull by the horns this week and examine some of the issues that critics have had with him. One, that he killed Vali from behind. But in the root *Ramayan*, which is Valmiki's, the dying Vali himself admits that Ram was right to do so and commends his son Angad to Ram's care. Vali's wife, Tara, rushes to Vali's side after his fall. Tara is depicted as a bold, intelligent woman by Valmiki. She is not afraid to speak her mind. She arrives full of anger but when she sees Ram, something happens to her. He radiates such a calm, steady aura that she starts praising him, not cursing him.

This happens in Lanka, too, after the battle. Mandodari rushes to where Ravana's body lies on the battlefield, furious with grief. But when she sees Ram, she too, undergoes a change of heart and praises him. Mandodari, in her heart of hearts, knows that Ram is in the right. She urged Ravana many times to return Sita to Ram, arguing that Ram was no ordinary person if he was able to rout the demon hordes of Khara and Dushana single-handedly and, though penniless in the forest, still managed to raise an army and achieve the impossible by crossing the sea to Lanka.

A third 'enemy woman' is moved by Ram's personality and deeds. This is none but Kaikesi, Ravana's mother, called Nikasha in the Bengali Ramayana. I learned from a parable by Sri Ramkrishna that Nikasha flees the palace after Ravana's defeat. She is caught by the Vanaras and brought to Ram, Lakshmana and Vibhishana. When questioned, she says that she marvels at Ram's marvelous deeds, at the loyalty he commands, and wanted to live longer to see what else he would do. Despite a snort from disbelieving Lakshmana who does not trust senior queens after Kaikeyi, Ram courteously entrusts her to Vibhishana's care and sends her back with honour, promising to stay in touch.

The other and even bigger issue that has tormented our culture for millennia is Ram's banishment of Sita. Narayana Bhattadri of Kerala, composer of the *Narayaneeyam* in the 16th century, which is still hugely popular today, describes the Dashavataram in his work. In fact, it is a potted Srimad Bhagavatam in poetry. About Sita, even he reportedly cries, "Shiva, Shiva! What an injustice!"

The banishment occurs in the seventh and last book of the Valmiki Ramayan, the *Uttara Kandam*. But scholars say that this is a *prakshipta* or add-on by someone else.

For one, the sixth book, *Yuddha Kandam*, ends with Ram's homecoming and coronation, followed by the *phalashruti*. A *phalashruti* or 'benefits of listening to the work' always comes at the end of a composition, it is the traditional conclusion. Secondly, the contents of the *Uttara Kandam* do not fit the character of Ram as described by Valmiki in the first six books.

PEXELS

> Some of Ram's actions in Ramayan like the banishment of Sita have come under criticism. The religion teaches believers not to flinch from the truth, which is what opened the door to reforms. But you have to know where critiques are coming from

But since the *Uttara Kandam* is too well known to ignore, let us examine what really happens, enlightened by both knowledgeable grandparents and modern discoursers. First of all, Valmiki was visited by Ram, Sita and Lakshmana during their exile, so they knew him.

Valmiki had meditated for so long that a termite mound, called 'valmik' in Sanskrit, grew to enclose him. So, when he emerged from it, he was called Valmiki, 'of the mound'. It was like a new birth. The Vedas say that such termite mounds are "the ears of Mother Earth". Since Valmiki was 'reborn' from the ear of Mother Earth, he was figuratively her son.

Now we know that Sita, too, was found on the ground by Janaka, that she was a daughter of Mother Earth. That is why she has names like Bhumija and Avanija, both meaning 'Earth's daughter'. It's the custom even today for a woman to go to her mother's house or brother's, to have her babies. Since Valmiki and Sita were both children of Mother Earth, they were technically siblings. So, Ram ordered Lakshmana to leave Sita near Valmiki's hermitage and Valmiki took her home exactly as set up. Valmiki was about sixty-two then and Sita thirty-five. He was a very fatherly brother to her.

We have to cull and join these points to console ourselves that Ram, a very correctly behaved person, was being proper in this as well. He did not abandon her just anywhere in the wild, nor did Valmiki find her by chance as popular TV serials may depict. She was sent where he would find her. It does not lessen our sorrow but at least gives us something to consider.

The religion teaches believers not to flinch from the truth, which is what opened the door to reforms. But you have to know where critiques are coming from. A case in point is the 19th century Bengali epic *Meghnad Badh Kavya* in nine cantos, by Michael Madhusudan Dutt. My Bengali friends tell me that it's a brilliant read. In it, Dutt valorises Ravana's son Indrajit or Meghnad, and negatively portrays Ram and Lakshmana. We cannot really blame him for it because our religion was not doing well in the 19th century. Dutt was a learned, sensitive person.

However, instead of fighting for reforms as so many Hindus did from within, he took the quickest shortcut to modernity available in his day, the English church. In his new persona, he spurned Ram as a foundational figure of the faith, although it was not God's fault but man's that Hindu society then mistreated its people. Broke in England, he was repeatedly bailed out by his benevolent reformer friend, Pandit Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar. Dutt wrote reams in English but literary magazines in England refused to publish him. Finally, it was by writing in his mother tongue, Bengali, about the *Ramayan*, that he became famous. Interesting, is it not?

Epic grace touched him even though a critic, demonstrating the belief of devotees that just thinking about Ram works its own miracles.

*(shebaba09@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

### Development lessons

Ref: *Last 5 yrs saw India reform, perform and transform, says PM* (Feb 11). Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the achievements of his government in the last five years. Each government in the past has made its contributions to the country's development. But this one had gone farther than all. The opposition must learn from this.

**S Lakshmi, Hyderabad**

### Naveen's example

Ref: *Shades of grey in north-south, B&W politics*. One wonders how Naveen Patnaik of Odisha has no complaints about funds from the Centre. His government has been providing good governance for more than two decades helped in part by increased mobilisation of funds internally. That shows the need to attain fiscal discipline.

**Venkat Desikan, Chennai**

### Fort heritage

Ref: *The unique heritage of Maratha forts* (Feb 11). The decision of the ministry of culture to nominate 12 forts for recognition in the UNESCO World Heritage List for the year 2024-25 is commendable. This is a great way to honour our rich cultural heritage and also the Maratha soldiers, the unsung heroes of our early independence war.

**Gouri Sudheer, email**

### Andhra call

Ref: *BJP to decide on poll alliance in AP soon* (Feb 11). The BJP is keeping all the options open to form alliances in the southern states. For a long-term alliance, they should choose partners whose ideologies are similar to that of the BJP. Another important thing is to ensure that seat-sharing is finalised early on.

**Rajarao Kumar, email**

### Leopard's spots

Ref: *Pak army chief backs Nawaz Sharif's call to form government* (Feb 11). Strong performance by Imran-backed independents in the recent Pakistan elections is a sign of public anger over the military's interference in politics. Notwithstanding this, the military has fired its first salvo of interference by backing Sharif to form government. After all, the leopard does not change its spots.

**R Sampath, Chennai**

### Military challenged

Pakistan appears to be staring at instability as no party has been able to emerge as a clear winner. Strong performance by Imran-backed independents would have shocked the establishment. The people have challenged the military. This is a good thing.

**Karan Singh, email**

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**POSTS OF THE DAY**

**Bhupender Yadav** @byadavbjp
Congress has always looked at the OBC community as just a vote bank. This party has openly opposed OBC reservation.

**Gaurav Gogoi** @GauravGogoiAsm
To follow the path of dharma you have to believe in truth, compassion and service to humanity. For governance our dharma is in following the Indian Constitution.

**Akhilesh Yadav** @yadavakhilesh
Freshness from the bud, fragrance from flowers, has disappeared. The condition of garden is one thing, but the gardner says something else.

# CAPF exams to be conducted in 13 languages

Around 48L candidates will take the test for constable recruitment from Feb 10 to March 7 in their mother tongue

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central government on Sunday announced that the constable recruitment examination for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will be conducted in 13 Indian languages for the first time, apart from in English and Hindi.

The examination is held for recruitments to Central police forces such as the Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force and Central Industrial Security Force.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in an official statement, said that apart from Hindi and English, the question papers would now be prepared in the regional languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri, Marathi and Konkani.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also announced the same on micro-blogging site X. "In a historic move, the Constable (GD) examination for recruitment in the CAPFs will be conducted in 13 regional languages besides Hindi and English, which 48 lakh candidates will take. It is a decisive step towards realising PM @narendramodi ji's vision to facilitate the faculties of our youth force with the power of their mother languages. I wish all the best to the candidates for the examination," Shah posted on X.

The Home Affairs Ministry also informed that question papers for the examinations, which will be held from February 10 to March 7, have been prepared in all the 15 languages. Around 48 lakh candidates would be appearing for the tests in 128 cities across the country, the statement added.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs had decided to conduct the constable (general duty) examination for recruitment in CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English from January 1, 2024," the MHA statement read.

In the statement, the MHA said that this "historic decision" has been taken on the initiative of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to increase the participation of local youths in the CAPFs and to promote regional languages. The decision will result in lakhs of youths taking part in the examination in their mother tongue or regional language and improve their selection prospects, it added.

"With this initiative of the Central government, the youths across the country have got a golden opportunity to participate in the constable (GD) examination in the Central Armed Police Forces conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) in their mother tongue and make a career in the service of the nation," the MHA statement noted.

Constable examination is one of the flagship recruitment tests conducted by the SSC, attracting lakhs of youths from across the country.

The MHA and Staff Selection Commission have signed an MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in the 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English. Accordingly, the SSC has issued notification in this regard.

## A TEST IN MOTHER TONGUE

Constable (General Duty) Selection Examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission makes recruitments for Central police forces such as CRPF, BSF and CISF

**Date of examination**
February 10 to March 7, 2024

**48L** candidates across **128** cities to take the test

**New languages**
Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani, apart from English and Hindi

# BJP likely to field RS MPs for LS elections

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP is set to field many of its Rajya Sabha MPs — regardless of whether their terms are ending before April or later — for the Lok Sabha polls from many "difficult" seats.

The party on Sunday named 14 candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls including former Union minister RPN Singh and Sudhanshu Trivedi — the only outgoing MP renominated by the party.

Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who represents Karnataka in Rajya Sabha, and BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, the outgoing MP from Uttarakhand, have been replaced with fresh faces amid indications that they may contest the Lok Sabha polls.

The first among those who are likely to be fielded as candidates for LS seats is said to be the party's Bihar strongman Sushil Kumar Modi. His name was missing in the list of 14, including two announced from Bihar for the Upper House.

BJP sources said Modi is being considered a candidate from the Bhagalpur Lok Sabha seat with a substantial presence of Vaishya voters. It is also seen as a BJP stronghold.

In the same way, three Union ministers — Railway and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and environment and climate change minister Bhupendra Yadav — are likely to be fielded in the LS polls.

At a party meeting, some Rajya Sabha MPs retiring this year were asked to suggest at least two LS seats each from where they could be comfortable to contest the elections.

"If this happens, two ministers of the Modi cabinet, both considered close to the PM, could be fielded from Banglore South and Central LS seats. They are Nirmala Sitharaman (Banglore South) and Rajiv Chandrashekhar (Bangalore Central)," said a BJP leader. These LS seats have a higher percentage of educated voters, among whom these two leaders are popular. The leader said that sitting MP from Bangalore, Tejasvi Surya, may test his electoral fate from another seat, leaving Banglore South for Nirmala Sitharaman.

Though, Ashwini Vaishnaw rejected the speculation, sources said that he may certainly be fielded either from Balasore in Odisha or any Brahmin-dominated LS seat in Rajasthan, which is Vaishnaw's home state. In Odisha, he had served as an IAS officer.

It is also said that Bhupender Yadav is likely to be a candidate from a seat in Haryana while V Muraleedharan from Kerala's Attingal LS seat and Dharmendra Pradhan from any Odisha LS seat. The BJP may also allot 25 per cent of the total 543 LS seats to new faces.

There is speculation that BJP national president JP Nadda would LS polls from a seat of his choice in Himachal Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh. His RS term ends this year.

On Sunday, BJP announced its candidates from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal for the Rajya Sabha elections.

Prominent among them are Sudhanshu Trivedi and RPN Singh from Uttar Pradesh and former Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala from Haryana. RPN Singh, who comes from the politically important Kurmi caste, was in the Congress before joining the BJP.

Besides relying on new faces, many of whom have been working in the party organisation for long, the BJP has maintained a balance of caste equation in picking its candidates.

Elections for 56 RS seats across 15 states are scheduled to be held on February 27.

## BJP NAMES 14 FOR RS POLLS

Elections for 56 Rajya Sabha seats across 15 states are scheduled to be held on February 27 and the last date for filing nominations is February 15. BJP announced 14 candidates on Sunday

**CANDIDATES**

- R P N Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
- Sudhanshu Trivedi (Uttar Pradesh)
- Sadhna Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
- Tejveer Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
- Amarpal Maurya (Uttar Pradesh)
- Sangita Balwant (Uttar Pradesh)
- Navin Jain (Uttar Pradesh)
- Narayansa K Bhandage (Karnataka)
- Devendra Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh)
- Dharmshila Gupta (Bihar)
- Bhim Singh (Bihar)
- Subhash Barala (Haryana)
- Samik Bhattacharya (West Bengal)
- Mahendra Bhatt (Uttarakhand)

# TMC announces 4 candidates for Rajya Sabha polls

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE ruling Trinamool Congress in Bengal on Sunday named journalist Sagarika Ghose, former Congress MP Susmita Dev, Dalit Matua community's face Mamatabala Thakur and member of the Upper House of Parliament Nadimul Haque as candidates for the upcoming elections to the Rajya Sabha.

Elections to the five Rajya Sabha seats from the state will be held on February 27. The seats fell vacant after the completion of the term of five MPs. Among the Trinamool Congress MPs whose six-year term expired are Nadimul Haque, Subhasish Chakraborty, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Santanu Sen. The term of Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who was also nominated with the support of the TMC has come to an end.

Though the nomination of Delhi-based journalist Sagarika, who authored biographies of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Atal Behari Vajpayee came as a surprise among the TMC's rank and file, party chairperson Mamata Banerjee is known for making such choices for Rajya Sabha.

The nominations of Mamatabala, and Shantanu Thakur is said to be significant at a time when the BJP is promising implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

## POWER GAMES

**SHAHID FARIDI**
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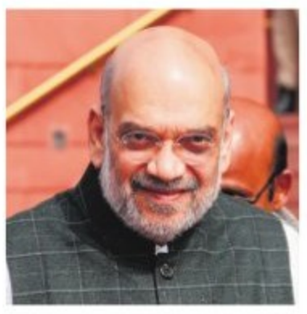
### Expanding NDA

**CHIRAG DRIVES HARD BARGAIN FOR 5 PARL SEATS**

As the deadline for filing nominations for 56 Rajya Sabha seats draws to a close on February 15, discussions among allies in Bihar have taken a tense turn. Former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan's son Chirag Paswan, who the BJP is courting, has toughened stance over his demand for a Rajya Sabha seat for his mother and four Lok Sabha seats for his party Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). He has had two rounds of meetings with BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Included in the Lok Sabha seats he is demanding is Hajipur, a seat from where his father had won eight times. The seat is currently held by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras, who had split the LJP after Paswan's death and took away five of the six Lok Sabha MPs to join the BJP-led NDA. Paras was made minister in the Modi government in 2021. But over the years Chirag has emerged as a more powerful leader of the sizable Paswan community in Bihar. The BJP is, therefore, keen to rope him into the NDA fold. But sources said the party is finding it difficult to accept Chirag's demand. The BJP has offered two seats each to the Chirag and Paras factions of the LJP. It has agreed to give the Hajipur seat to Chirag but is not ready to offer a Rajya Sabha seat to Chirag's mother. Chirag is not ready to accept the BJP offer. There are reports that he has been offered six seats by the Lalu Yadav-led RJD. The Bihar pot-boiler promises to hold the attention of political watchers in this poll season.



### Rajya Sabha Nominations

**KAMAL NATH'S DINNER MEET TO MOUNT PRESSURE**

The lobbying for Rajya Sabha seat has reached a feverish pitch in the Congress. The party expects to win nine out of the 56 seats to be filled this month. Sources said veteran leader Kamal Nath is keen to enter the Upper House. He has been camping in Delhi to lobby for his seat. But Rahul Gandhi has so far avoided meeting him as he is not very keen on sending Kamal Nath to the Rajya Sabha after the party's humiliating defeat in the Madhya Pradesh state assembly election under his leadership. Rahul has left Delhi without meeting Kamal Nath to resume his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. But Kamal Nath has refused to give up. He has called a dinner meeting of all Congress MLAs in Bhopal on February 13. A large number of these MLAs owe allegiance to him as they were given party tickets by him. The Congress leadership had given Kamal Nath a free hand to fight the assembly election. This included choosing candidates. The party has enough MLAs in the state to elect one candidate to the Rajya Sabha. A message is sought to be sent that no Congress candidate except Kamal Nath will be allowed to win from Madhya Pradesh. With both sides keenly watching as to who will blink first, the majority opinion is that Kamal Nath may ultimately prevail.

# Urban ministry told to amend bylaws for easy accessibility to the disabled

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

AIMING at easy access to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the Centre has directed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to encourage the state governments to adopt accessibility guidelines.

The directions were issued after the review meeting of the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) chaired by Cabinet Secretary. The ministry was further asked to appropriately amend local bylaws to institutionalise easy building access to specially-abled individuals.

Held last month, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) was also asked to explore the possibility of assessing the implementation of accessibility guidelines by an independent agency besides a slew of other recommendations. It was advised to ensure regular follow-ups with the ministries or departments on the compliance.

According to the minutes of the meeting, feedback of bodies representing PwDs should form a key element of independent evaluation and ministries or departments may be ranked based on the assessment.

One of the recommendations made by the committee for the ministries and departments was to mainstream the accessibility guidelines by integrating them into government schemes.

During the review, the panel noted that of the funds for making 1,314 state government buildings accessible, 623 have been made barrier-free. State governments have made 358 of their 2,851 premises accessible with their own resources.

The DEPwD informed that 20 ministries and departments have been given the mandate of preparing sector-specific accessibility guidelines. "Eleven ministries or departments have been notified of their guidelines under Right for Persons with Disabilities (RPwd) rules 2017. The guidelines for three ministries or departments are under process for notification under rule 15 for RPwD rules. The remaining ministries or departments are in the final stages of publication of the guidelines in the gazette," the minutes said.

However, it informed the panel that while considerable progress has been made in providing accessibility, complaints are still being received particularly with respect to private entities, social media and digital payment sectors.

## 'MAINSTREAM GUIDELINES'

Feedback of bodies representing persons with disabilities should form an important element of independent evaluation and ministries or departments may be ranked based on the assessment

Mainstream accessibility guidelines by integrating them into government schemes

**20** ministries and departments have been given the mandate of preparing sector-specific accessibility guidelines

**While funds released for making**

**1,314** state government buildings accessible

**623** have been made barrier-free.

The states made 358 of their 2,851 premises accessible with their own resources

Complaints are still being received particularly with respect to private entities, social media and digital payment sectors

Greater efforts are required for improving accessibility to hearing and visually impaired persons

# India's UPI to be launched in Sri Lanka and Mauritius today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA'S Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services will be launched virtually in the two island nations of Sri Lanka and Mauritius on Monday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth will witness the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and also RuPay card services in Mauritius on February 12 at 1 PM via video conferencing," according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The UPI — developed by the National Payments Corporation of India — is an instant real-time payment system to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. RuPay is a global card payment network from India accepted at shops, ATMs and online.

India has emerged as a leader in fintech innovation and digital public infrastructure.

The Prime Minister has placed a strong emphasis on sharing our development experiences and innovation with partner countries, the statement added.

# No alliance: Kejriwal says AAP will contest all seven LS seats in Delhi

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A day after making it clear that AAP will go solo on all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab and one in Chandigarh UT, Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday announced a similar arrangement for all seven seats in Delhi. This puts an end to the projected AAP-Congress alliance as part of the INDIA bloc in these states.

"The people of the national capital have decided to give all seven LS seats to AAP," Kejriwal said while addressing a gathering after dedicating a thermal plant at Taran Taran in Punjab.

"The BJP is scared of AAP and wants to defame and crush it. BJP fears fear that if AAP continues to grow like this, then there will be an AAP government at the Centre," said Kejriwal.

He charged the Centre with using Central agencies to arm-twist the Opposition. "The people of Delhi have decided to give all seven Lok Sabha seats to AAP and if the people of Punjab also give us all 13 Lok Sabha seats, all your wishes will be fulfilled," said Kejriwal.

Sometime back, Congress and AAP were reportedly in talks for Delhi seats in which Congress was supposed to contest on four and AAP on three LS seats.

He said in 10 years, AAP has formed governments in Delhi and Punjab, and has MLAs in Gujarat and Goa.

"Wherever we fight elections, we secure votes. We have the strength of honesty with clear intentions. We build schools and hospitals, set electricity right, build roads. But BJP cannot do such work," he said.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at a rally to inaugurate Guru Amardas Thermal Power Plant in Tarn Taran district of Punjab on Sunday | PTI

**WE HAVE TO FIGHT ALONE & WIN: KHARGE**

Addressing the first Punjab Congress workers' conference in Samrala, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the decision to have alliance under the INDIA bloc has been taken for the entire country and it was not just for Punjab. "In some states, an alliance under INDIA bloc is happening and in others, it is not. But the party has to fight alone till the end and win. It does not matter who joins us and who does not," he said.

**MISSING**

A 35-year-old village volunteer, who had gone missing for four days, was on Sunday found dead at Molham Kuki village in Manipur. The bullet-riddled body of was recovered during a search operation by security forces.

3 MORE — HELD FOR BLAST AT FACTORY IN HARDA

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 29 | 27 | Mumbai | 33 | 21 |
| Bhopal | 30 | 15 | Panaji | 33 | 22 |
| Jaipur | 23 | 11 | Patna | 27 | 13 |
| Amritsar | 23 | 08 | Lucknow | 22 | 08 |
| Chennai | 29 | 25 | Port Blair | 31 | 25 |
| Kolkata | 30 | 17 | Imphal | 25 | 04 |
| Srinagar | 09 | -03 | Chandigarh | 23 | 11 |

# 370-plus seats a target for BJP in LS polls, says Modi

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

WHILE exuding confidence that the BJP will win 370-plus seats on its own in the coming Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the target will be achievable once the party adds 370 new votes to its best ever votes tally on each polling booth.

"Even the prominent opposition leaders are now admitting that the 400 seats-plus figure for the NDA in the coming polls is achievable. I've been hearing about 400-plus seats for the NDA and 370-plus seats for the BJP on its own.For the BJP to win 370-plus seats on its own, we'll first have to find out the party's best performance on each polling booth in the last three elections." he says.

"Once the best tally of votes is found, then our efforts should be focused to add 370 new votes to that best ever tally of votes on each booth. Once we add 370 new votes to our best ever tally on each booth, the 370-plus seats target for BJP will be assured," Modi adds while addressing the Vishal Adivasi Mahakumbh in Bhil tribe dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh.

"For adding 370 votes in BJP's best ever tally on each booth, you'll have to reach out to every voter, educate them about the schemes and achievements of the government. Tell them which schemes have benefitted the voters. But those voters who are yet to be benefitted by the schemes, assure them that the benefits will be ushered to them, once Modi returns to power," the PM said while addressing the gathering which included BJP workers from Jhabua and adjoining tribal dominated districts of western MP as well as party's tribal leaders from adjoining Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Odisha and Jharkhand.

Before addressing the mega tribal gathering, Modi unveiled and laid the foundation of development projects worth over ₹7,500 crore for MP. He laid foundation of multiple projects, including CM Rise School in Jhabua, Talavada Project for drinking water to people in Jhabua, Ratlam and adjoining tribal dominated districts.

# Bengal on boil over Sandeshkhali

After stir against local TMC leaders, cops arrest former CPM MLA; Guv may visit area today

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

A probe into the agitation against the Trinamool Congress's satraps in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas, took a serious turn on Sunday as the lawkeepers arrested former CPM MLA from the area on the charges of instigating the protesters who went on a rampage targeting outlets of a local TMC leader accusing him of atrocities against women of the area.

Cutting short his Kerala trip, West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose is likely to visit Sandeshkhali on Monday. "He will land in Kolkata around 9 am and go straight to the trouble-torn areas of North 24 Parganas district, said a Raj Bhavan official.

Nirapada Sardar, who served as Sandeshkhali MLA from 2011 to 2016, was picked from his south Kolkata rented house and taken to the Basirhat police station.

Police said Sardar was arrested on the basis of a complaint lodged by Shibaprasad Hazra, a TMC functionary in Sandeshkhali who is at large since the officers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were bashed up and left bleeding when they went to search the house of the ruling party's strongman Shahjahan Sheikh in Sandeshkhali in January in a foodgrain scam case.

Security personnel during raid at TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh on Feb 7 | PTI

The agitation in Sandeshkhali, with women armed with sticks and brooms in the forefront, was a throwback to the Nandigram stir that brought the TMC to power 17 years ago. It is said to be a wake-up call for the ruling party. Thousands of protesters took to the streets without displaying flags of any political party, organised marches against the highhandedness of Shajahan and his men in the area and set Hazra's three poultry farms and a liquor outlet ablaze three days ago.

Condemning Sardar's arrest, CPM leader Bikash Bhattacharya said, "The protesting villagers identified themselves in public that they were TMC supporters. They held the atrocities by the ruling party's local leaders responsible for the mass agitation. But shockingly, police arrested the former MLA, who is also a state committee member of the party, on the basis of a baseless complaint scripted by the ruling party and lodged by someone against whom an entire village is protesting. The police did not even bother to investigate the veracity of the complaint."

CPM supporters staged a demonstration in front of Bansdroni police station in south Kolkata where Sardar was brought from his home. They alleged that the police did not show any reason when the former legislator was being taken from his residence.

"It was around 10 am when the men in uniform came in front of my house. One of them asked me to go to the police station with them. When I asked the reason, they did not say anything," said Sardar at Bansdroni police station.

Sardar had issued several statements after the assault on the ED officers saying Shahjahan, the mastermind behind the attack who fled from the area, was in Sandeshkhali under the shelter of the state police. Another group of CPM supporters staged a sit-in in front of the Sandeshkhali police station where Sardar was brought from Kolkata. "Police are acting at the behest of the ruling party. The people of Sandeshkhali will give a reply to it," said the MLA while being taken inside the police station.

The Basirhat court remanded Sardar to one-day judicial custody as the hearing process could not be started as the related documents reached the court late from the police. Other than clamping Section 144 in Sandeshkhali, internet services were suspended since Friday.

## AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
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### BJP's mission 'single digit' on the roll

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has begun attempts to bring the Congress strength to a single digit in Gujarat. According to sources, under the BJP's mission "single digit," a former president of the Gujarat Congress is now preparing to join the BJP. However, they said the Congress president has requested a Rajya Sabha seat for himself and an assembly seat for his brother as a condition of joining the BJP. The talks have eventually cracked since his brother's seat has not been confirmed. However, sources claim that this politician may still join the BJP when Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo Nyay yatra" visits Gujarat.

### New faces from Gujarat in Rajya Sabha polls

On February 27, elections will be held for four Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat. In this election, all four seats are almost decided, with BJP candidates winning unchallenged. According to sources, the BJP plans to declare candidates for four seats on February 14. When Amit Shah visits Gujarat from February 12 to 14, the names of the four candidates may be announced. According to sources, the BJP may field a woman candidate for the Rajya Sabha. While one candidate is being discussed from outside the state. Two other new faces could be unveiled as Rajya Sabha candidates.

### BJP focuses on mission 'gaon chalo'

Now that the Lok Sabha elections are approaching, the BJP has devised a new strategy to win 26 out of 26 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat, completing a hat-trick of victories. This time around, the BJP is focusing more on rural to win all seats with a lead of more than five lakh. The "Gaon Chalo" began in Gujarat on February 10 and 11. The BJP officials, ministers, leaders, and the Chief Minister visited villages and spent the night there. During their stay, the BJP leaders informed the people about central and state government schemes. BJP claims that 29,165 workers and 27,535 convenors had visited 41 districts and metros during this campaign.

# J&K announces cash rewards for info on militants

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

In a first, police have announced cash rewards for people in different categories for giving information about anti-national elements and their activities. The cash rewards range from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh. They have announced four categories for which cash rewards will be given.

The cash rewards will be given to those helping security forces to locate a cross-border tunnel, sighting of drone, interstate narcotics module, militants, about persons talking to militant handlers in Pakistan and to individuals reporting on those encouraging, inducing, or inciting people to join militancy in places like mosques, madrasas, schools, or colleges.

It is for the first time since the eruption of militancy in 1989 that police has announced cash rewards in different categories for sharing information about anti-national elements.

"The highest cash reward of ₹5 lakhs will be rewarded to whoever helps in locating trans-border tunnels used by anti-national elements to transport militants, explosives, and contraband consignments," an official said. He said ₹3 lakh will be rewarded to whosoever sights a drone flying from across the border.

# Bureaucrats under ED lens as WhatsApp chats of Soren's aide emerge

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

SEVERAL bureaucrats have been put under the ED scanner after the Central agency recovered WhatsApp conversations of Binod Singh, a close associate of former Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and others from his two mobile phones which are "highly incriminating" and contain details of several properties besides the requests of the transfer and posting of several IAS and police officers in the state.

According to ED, Soren's WhatsApp chats suggest that 'money also appears to have been generated' by 'transfer postings.' ED in its remand note of Hemant, claimed that the WhatsApp chat not only include the exchange of confidential information regarding several properties, but other incriminating information relating to transfer-posting, sharing of government records etc. out of which, huge amount of money appears to have been generated and transacted.

The chat includes the names of several IAS officers, senior police officials, and others who wanted plum posting for them through Binod Singh. According to ED sources, in order to get into the details of money trail the investigation agency may start issuing summons to the bureaucrats one by one whose names have surfaced in the WhatsApp chat of Binod Singh after the questioning of his and others is over.

**Transfer-postings**

WhatsApp chats suggest that 'money also appears to have been generated' by 'transfer-postings.' ED in its remand note of Hemant, claimed that the WhatsApp chats not only include the exchange of confidential information on properties, but other information relating to transfer-postings

Meanwhile, intensifying its probe into the land scam case, the ED continued questioning Congress MP Dheeraj Sahu for the second consecutive day about the BMW car which was recovered from the Delhi residence of ex-CM Hemant Soren on January 29.

On Saturday, ED had questioned Sahu for 11 hours along with former CM's media advisor Abhishek Prasad Pintu, architect friend Binod Kumar Singh, and Sahbganj DC Ramnivas Yadav and Baragain Revenue Inspector Bhanu Pratap Prasad.

# Curfew continues in Haldwani area, key suspect for violence held in Delhi

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Police on Sunday arrested 25 rioters and the alleged mastermind behind the Haldwani violence in Uttarakhand, a police spokesperson said on Sunday. While the suspect Abdul Malik was arrested from the national capital, 25 others were nabbed during raids in the states.

A curfew was imposed in the Muslim-dominated Banbhulpura in Haldwani following an outbreak of arson and rioting in the area. "The suspect, Abdul Malik who was tracked down in Delhi and brought back to Haldwani, is currently undergoing intensive interrogation by the police team as part of the ongoing investigation," the spokesperson said.

Abdul Malik, believed to be the mastermind behind the entire disturbance and violence, played a significant role in inciting the violence on February 8, when authorities were dismantling an unauthorised madrasa and prayer site in 'Malik ka Bagicha' in Banbhulpura.

While briefing the media, SSP Prahalad Narayan Meena, said, "After monitoring CCTV cameras near the sites of the incidents and gatherings, additional supporting evidence, police teams conducted raids on residences in the vicinity. These operations led to the arrest of individuals involved in the mentioned cases, along with the seizure of illegal weapons and ammunition found in their possession".

Charred remains of vehicles following incidents of violence in Haldwani | PTI

After being produced in court, they have been remanded for further interrogation. According to SSP Meena, three separate First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered against 5,000 unidentified persons, of whom 19 have been named specifically in connection with the rioting and arson. So far, the police have taken more than 75 accused involved in rioting into custody.

In the sensitive area of Banbhoopura, along with paramilitary forces, the police and Rapid Action Force have cordoned off the area.

A spokesperson for the Nainital Police Media Cell stated, "The police, along with the Special Operations Group (SOG) and five teams, are escalating their efforts to arrest the rioters. These teams have extended their operations to western Uttar Pradesh.

In a significant crackdown following the Banbhoolpura violence, as many as 25 identified accused have been arrested. The police spokesperson also disclosed that during the arrests, authorities seized 7 firearms, 54 live cartridges, and 99 looted live cartridges from the police station.

According to information received from the district information office, schools and anganwadi centres will be reopened in all areas starting Monday, except for the Banbhoolpura curfew zone.

# Assam ministers to lose power subsidies, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

MINISTERS and senior government officers in Assam will no longer have any access to subsidised electricity, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday, adding that he has instructed the Power Department to install prepaid meters at every government quarters, including that of ministers and officers.

The CM said he was informed for the first time during his recent interactions with officials from the department that a very nominal monthly power bill is deducted from the salaries of ministers and senior officers. "Immediately, I instructed the department to install individual prepaid meters in every government quarters, including residences in the ministerial colony," Sarma said.

He said this measure was aimed at ensuring that no subsidised power is enjoyed by ministers, officers or government employees.

Sarma said the state cabinet, which met on Saturday, took a landmark decision to end the practice of magical healing.

**POWER CRISIS LOOMS**

1,970 MW of power was the demand in 2023

3,000 MW increase in power demand is what is anticipated this year and 4,000 MW by 2026

State has exhausted all its power generation potentials

CM has now instructed the Power Department to install prepaid meters at every government quarters, including that of ministers and officers

A very nominal monthly power bill is deducted from the salaries of ministers and senior officers

Govt signed pacts with some companies for improved availability

The cabinet approved a bill to provide relief to victims of magical healing in the name of treatment. Under the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024, any person found guilty of committing the illegal act in the name of treatment/magical healing will be punished with imprisonment and a fine.

He said, "The proposed bill seeks to prohibit and eliminate the practices of magical healing in the name of treatment of some congenital diseases like deafness, dumbness, blindness, physical deformities, autism, etc."

It will prohibit such healing sessions completely and provide strong punitive action against "healers" extorting the poor and downtrodden people in the name of treatment, the CM added. Meanwhile, Assam has become the first state to deliver over one crore Ayushman cards.

"Assam Achieves a New Milestone. Assam has taken sustained efforts to realise Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji's goal of Universal Health Coverage. We have become the 1st State to deliver more than 1cr Ayushman Cards to our people through efforts such as Viksit Bharat Yatra and Ayushman Apke Dwar Abhiyan," Sarma wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Assam had a big spike in power consumption last year which caught the government off guard. The peak hour demand, which was about 1,600 MW in 2018-19, increased to 1,800 MW in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and 1,970 MW in 2022-23.

Last year, Sarma had stated that he had no idea why there was such a sharp increase in power demand. The government feels the peak hour demand will reach 3,000 MW this year and 4,000 MW by the time the term of the present government ends in 2026.

As regards power generation, the government said the state exhausted all its potentials. There is no source left to generate power.

# Three U'khand villages impose 'ban' on liquor, drugs during celebrations

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN recent times, the tribal areas of Uttarakhand have been openly vocal about the issue of prohibition. Late on Friday night, a public meeting was held in the village panchayat of Buraswa, which included residents of three villages - Bangoti, Bandarah, and Timra. In this unanimous decision, it was decided that the consumption of alcohol, cannabis, opium, smack, etc. within the village will be completely prohibited.

In the meeting chaired by the village head Sushila Rawat, after discussing various points against addiction, several complex rules were made against those who sell and consume intoxicants. A member of the gram panchayat stated, "If the rules are violated by the villagers, social penalties will be imposed. Those who sell alcohol or other intoxicants will face a penalty of 51,000 rupees, while those who purchase alcohol and other intoxicants will be fined 21,000 rupees."

**Social penalties**

A member of the gram panchayat stated that if the rules are violated by the villagers, social penalties will be imposed. Those who sell alcohol or other intoxicants will face a penalty of `51,000, while those who purchase alcohol will be fined `21,000. A reward of `1,100 will be given to ones informing of such violations.

"Apart from this, a reward of ₹1,100 will be given to the person giving information to the village panchayat and the village head about the name of the person violating the rules," village representative Narendra Singh said. Those who consume alcohol or drugs and behave indecent or abusive in the village will have to pay a fine of ₹11,000"

In addition, the sale and purchase of alcohol will also be prohibited, with villagers imposing a complete ban on the sale and purchase of illicit alcohol. "Furthermore, vendors are not allowed to enter the village, and external traders are prohibited from participating in any commercial activities within the community. Compliance with these rules is mandatory for all villagers" the village panchayat resolved.

Earlier, villages in Pachwadun region had also imposed similar restrictions for prohibition in their villages. Former head of Kalsi Shamsher Singh Tomar said that people of Kota Dimau, Gadol and Bohri villages in Tehsil Kalsi area, located 44 km from district headquarters Dehradun, do not even touch liquor or other drugs.

Previously, villages in the Pachwadoon area also implemented bans on alcohol consumption. Shamsher Singh, the former member of a Kalsi village, shared with this newspaper, "The residents of Kota Dimau, Gadol, and Bohri villages in Tehsil Kalsi, situated 44 km from Dehradun under the district headquarters, strictly abstain from consuming alcohol or any other drugs."

**54 DEAD**
in a massive landslide that buried a gold-mining village in south Philippines with 64 people missing

**GLOBAL WEATHER**

LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing | 10 | -3 | SNY | Los Angeles | 19 | 6 | SNY |
| Colombo | 32 | 24 | TDS | Melbourne | 36 | 19 | SNY |
| Dhaka | 27 | 14 | SNY | Moscow | -2 | -4 | WI |
| Dubai | 21 | 14 | TDS | New York | 9 | 5 | SNY |
| Houston | 25 | 6 | TDS | Singapore | 31 | 24 | TDS |
| Istanbul | 17 | 11 | LR | Toronto | 4 | -1 | SNY |
| London | 10 | 5 | SNY | Washington | 11 | 7 | LR |

Stir by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters reported across country | Police fire tear gas, move in with riot shields to disperse crowd | Candidates throng courts alleging manipulation in election results

# PAKISTAN COPS CLASH WITH IMRAN SUPPORTERS AT ELECTION PROTEST

**ISLAMABAD**

POLICE fired tear gas to disperse supporters of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan on Sunday after his party urged protests outside election offices where they said rigging had taken place in last week's national vote. Clashes were reported in Rawalpindi city, south of the capital, and Lahore, in the east, while dozens of other protests were held across the country without incident.

Police warned earlier they would come down hard on illegal gatherings. There were no immediate reports of injuries from the protests.

Independent candidates -- most linked to Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party – took the most seats in the polls, scuppering the chances of the army-backed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to win a ruling majority. However, independents cannot form a government and the country faces weeks of political uncertainty as rival parties negotiate possible coalitions.

PTI leaders claim they would have won even more seats if not for vote rigging.

A nationwide election-day mobile telephone blackout and the slow counting of results led to suspicions the military establishment was influencing the process to ensure success for former premier Nawaz Sharif's PML-N.

"Throughout Pakistan, elections were manipulated in a subtle way," PTI chairman Gohar Ali Khan told a news conference Saturday, calling on supporters to "protest peacefully" on Sunday.

Authorities warned they would take strict action, saying so-called Section 144 orders were in place -- a colonial-era law banning public gatherings. "Some individuals are inciting illegal gatherings around the Election Commission and other government offices," a statement from Islamabad's police force said on Sunday.

"Legal action will be taken against unlawful assemblies. It should be noted that soliciting for gatherings is also a crime," it said.

A similar warning was also issued in Rawalpindi, while dozens of police equipped with riot gear assembled near Liberty Market in Lahore.

In Rawalpindi, police fire tear gas at a crowd of dozens of PTI supporters after they refused orders to stop picketing an office used to collect constituency election results. Another gathering of around 200 PTI supporters in Lahore dispersed quickly when police moved in with riot shields and batons. *AFP*

Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party run from tear gas during a protest in Rawalpindi against the alleged skewing in the election results | AFP

**PAK PREZ ARIF ALVI SAYS CITIZENS SHOUTED OUT LOUD THEIR WILL IN ELECTION**

Islamabad: Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday said the voters, particularly women and youth, have "not only spoken but shouted out loud their will" in the general elections and urged all political parties and institutions to "respect and recognise" the huge mandate of the citizens. Alvi was a senior member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party before former prime minister Imran Khan made him the country's President in 2018. PTI

## Future looks uncertain for Imran Khan's party

**ISLAMABAD**

IMRAN Khan's party defied a months-long crackdown, which crippled campaigning and forced candidates to run as independents, to emerge as the winners of Thursday's vote.

Final results were announced Sunday, with independents winning 101 seats, PML-N 75, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) 54, and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) 17.

Ten minor parties mopped up the remaining 17 seats, with two remaining vacant.

"The results have clearly indicated that no single party possesses a simple majority to establish a government," said Zahid Hussain, a political analyst and author.

"The political future of the country from this point onward is highly uncertain."

Still, PTI leaders insist they have been given a "people's mandate" to form the next government. *AFP*

## WAR WATCH

**ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 127**

**GAZA TOLL SO FAR**

**28,337**

Hamas warned Israel on Sunday that an offensive into Gaza's far-southern city of Rafah, crowded with displaced Palestinians, would threaten talks about the release of hostages seized in the October 7 attacks.

Egypt is threatening to suspend its peace treaty with Israel if Israeli troops are sent into the densely populated Gaza border town of Rafah, and says fighting there could force the closure of the territory's main aid supply route, an Egyptian official said on Sunday.

Iran marked 45 years since its Islamic revolution with a ceremony Sunday in which President Ebrahim Raisi condemned arch foe Israel over the Gaza war and demanded it be expelled from the United Nations.

**'GENOCIDAL' ISRAEL**

Thousands of Moroccans on Sunday took to the streets of their capital to call for an end to their country's ties with Israel, which they denounced for "genocide" in Gaza. More than 10,000 people joined the rally, some of them carrying an immense Palestinian flag. In late 2020, Morocco established diplomatic ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords brokered by the United States which saw similar moves by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

# Courts flooded with petitions challenging election results

**ISLAMABAD**

PAKISTAN courts have been flooded with petitions by losing candidates who challenged the provisional results in their constituencies within days after the highly polarised general elections in the country, it emerged on Sunday.

Though Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) emerged as the single largest party in the February 8 elections, the number of independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party, were the single largest block of winners. The PTI claimed that its supported candidates have won the maximum number of seats but the results were manipulated to deprive it of the majority, and in order to turn the tide, its losing candidates have thronged the courts.

According to a report in the Dawn newspaper, a vast majority of those filing challenges against results are PTI-backed independents, including high-profile politicians such as former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi and his wife Qaisera, former Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) finance minister Taimoor Jhagra and ex-KP speaker Mahmood Jan, Islamabad-based lawyer Shuaib Shaheen, former Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, as well as Rehana Dar, mother of Usman Dar who was in-charge youth affairs in the PTI government.

In Lahore, the victories of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz, PML-N Attaullah Tarar and former defence minister Khawaja Asif were assailed in separate petitions before the high court. *PTI*

**Two-member bench**

The Peshawar High Court will take up petitions filed by nine PTI-backed independents, including six former lawmakers, challenging the provisional election results in their respective constituencies. The hearing will be conducted by a two-member bench consisting of Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Syed Arshad Ali.

Supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party protest against the alleged skewing in Pakistan's national election results, in Karachi | AFP

## Russia launches 45 drones in mass barrage of Ukraine

**KYIV**

RUSSIAN forces launched 45 drones over Ukraine on Sunday in a five-and-a-half-hour barrage, officials said, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy continued the reshuffle of his war cabinet as the war enters its third year.

In a statement, the Ukrainian air force said it had shot down 40 of the Iranian-made Shahed drones over nine different regions, including on the outskirts of the country's capital, Kyiv.

The five-and-a-half-hour attack targeted agricultural facilities and coastal infrastructure, officials for Ukraine's southern defense forces wrote on Telegram. They said that a strike in the Mykolaiv region had injured one person, sparking a fire and damaging nearby residential buildings.

Another person was injured in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region when a blaze broke out due to falling debris from a destroyed drone, said the head of the region's military administration, Serhiy Lysak.

The strikes come as Zelenskyy continues his shakeup of military commanders in a bid to maintain momentum against attacking Russian forces.

Kyiv announced on Sunday that former deputy defence minister Lt Gen Alexander Pavlyuk would become the new commander of Ukraine's ground forces. The post was previously held by Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, who was named on Thursday as the replacement for Ukraine's outgoing military chief, Gen Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

In a statement on Telegram Saturday, Zelenskyy said that he hoped to 'reboot' the upper levels of Ukraine's armed forces. *AP*

> **The five-and-a-half-hour attack targeted agricultural facilities and coastal infrastructure. A strike in the Mykolaiv region injured one person, and damaged nearby residential buildings**
>
> Ukrainian air force

## Sunak 'totally up for fight' to win UK gen election

**LONDON**

BRITISH Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** has said he is 'totally up for the fight' of pitching his policies to the electorate to win another term for the governing Conservative Party as he prepares for a general election expected to take place in the second half of the year.

In an interview with The Times this weekend, the 43-year-old British Indian leader said he had reasons to be optimistic because the economy was 'pointing in the right direction' and that the 'future is going to be better'.

'At the beginning of this year there is a sense that the country is pointing in the right direction,' he told the newspaper.

'Because economic conditions have improved, because the plan is working, you are starting to see mortgage rates come down and we have been able to cut taxes. I do believe those pressures are starting to ease and that hopefully over the course of this year, we can continue to make even more progress,' he said. In a message as much for the voters as for the rebels within his own Tory ranks, the Conservative leader reiterated his plan to cut taxes for the hardworking people of the country. *PTI*

## Haley hits back as Trump mocks her military husband during campaign

**GILBERT**

FORMER President Donald Trump on Saturday questioned why his Republican rival Nikki Haley's husband wasn't on the campaign trail, drawing sharp responses from both the former UN ambassador and her husband, who is currently abroad on a National Guard mission.

"What happened to her husband?" Trump told a crowd in Conway, South Carolina, as he and Haley held events across the state ahead of its February 24 Republican primary. "Where is he? He's gone. He knew. He knew."

Responded Haley in a post on X, "Michael is deployed serving our country, something you know nothing about."

Nikki Haley

Donald Trump

It's the latest example of Trump disparaging his opponents based on their US military service.

Throughout his political career, Trump has been accused of disregarding longstanding norms on avoiding attacking current or past servicemembers or people in a politician's family.

Trump has said he avoided service in the Vietnam War through student and medical deferments. And Trump's wife, former first lady Melania Trump, has been absent from the campaign trail and has not appeared with him at a public campaign event since his announcement speech.

Haley challenged him at a campaign stop. "Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back. Get on a debate stage and say it to my face," she told a crowd. *AP*

> **Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back. Get on a debate stage and say it to my face**
>
> Nikki Haley, Repulican candidate

**FLAMBOYANT SHOW**

A reveller performs during the second night of the carnival at Sambadrome in Sao Paulo, Brazil | AFP

## Indonesia set for presidential vote, ex-general tipped to win

**JAKARTA**

INDONESIANS vote in a presidential election Wednesday with Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto the clear favourite after a campaign mixing nationalist rhetoric and pledges to continue the era of popular outgoing leader Joko Widodo.

The former general lost to Widodo in 2014 and 2019 but is on course to finally lead the world's third-largest democracy after rehabilitating his image.

Widodo is constitutionally barred from running for a third term but his popularity hit all-time highs last year with polls showing he would have likely won another election.

Ox carts carry election materials of the General Elections Commission (KPU) on the beach to deliver to remote polling stations in Lampung, Indonesia | AFP

Polls project Subianto to win a majority from nearly 205 million Indonesians who will dip their finger in halal ink at more than 800,000 polling stations across the volcano-dotted archipelago. Battling the 72-year-old for a potential second-round run-off vote if he falls short are former Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan and former Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo.

NGOs and his former military bosses accuse Subianto of ordering the abduction of democracy activists at the end of dictator Suharto's rule in the late 1990s, but his new "cuddly grandpa" persona has won over younger voters.

Baswedan has instead promoted an opposition message targeting bad governance, while Pranowo has offered free internet for students and banked on his humble background.

But both have been unable to match the star power of the Subianto campaign. *AFP*

**Horses and cow carts prepared for mega polls**

The elections will have a mind-boggling feat that involves shifting votes by boat, plane and horseback across the vast archipelago of more than 278 million people. In Aceh province, organisers are still deciding whether to use elephants to carry ballot boxes. Officials have prepared three trusty stallions to bring ballots to a southeast corner of Java island. In Lampung province, cows will be used in four villages to drag votes through mud tracks to and from polling stations.

**EXPRESS READ**

**Hundreds opposing bill allowing same-sex marriage rally in Greece**

Athens: Over 1,500 protesters gathered in central Athens on Sunday to oppose legislation that would legalise same-sex marriage in Greece. The bill is set for a vote in parliament in days. Greece's conservative government is sponsoring the bill but it will require votes from centre and left opposition parties to be approved. Even some centre-left lawmakers have gone on record as opposing the bill. Organisers of Sunday's rally described the bill as a threat to the traditional family. If the bill is approved, Greece would become the first majority Orthodox country to legalise same-sex marriage. AP

# Beyond OTP: RBI looking for other authentication methods

Though SMS-based OTP for authentication is now quite popular, it is not foolproof. With the proposed principles, RBI wants to encourage alternative methods

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

TO enhance the security of digital payments, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its recent Monetary Policy Meeting (MPC) announced a principle-based framework for authentication of digital payment transactions and also announced a revised regulatory framework for electronic trading platforms (ETPs), among others. Experts say this will enhance security and also provide improved user experience.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said, "Over the years, the Reserve Bank has proactively facilitated introduction of various mechanisms such as Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) for securing digital payments. While no particular mechanism was specified by the Reserve Bank, SMS-based OTP has become very popular." With technological advancements, however, alternative authentication mechanisms have emerged in recent years. SMS-based OTP for authentication is now quite popular but experts say this is not foolproof.

Aditya Gupta, Founder & CEO Credilio said, "The RBI's authentication principle is quite beneficial for the consumers as it enhances safety which is a strong shield against potential frauds that give users peace of mind throughout their online transactions. There is an establishment of a reliable ecosystem for digital payments leading to trustworthiness and predictability in user experience. The underlying concept here is to develop confidence among the users thereby attracting more people into using cashless payments methods as well as promoting financial inclusion."

Also, the central bank's strict measures for authentication make it easier for customers who are afraid of being defrauded during an internet use to conduct their businesses without fear. Use of such enhanced technologies like biometric authentication has served to enhance user experience during this period by enabling them to navigate through transactions. The RBI also announced a review of the Regulatory Framework for ETPs and that will be issued for stakeholders' feedback. Earlier in 2018, the central bank issued a regulatory framework. It also proposed to streamline the process for on-boarding of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) and enhance its robustness. This has played an important role in financial inclusion by enabling customers to make digital payment transactions through service providers such as business correspondents.

"This move, particularly the proposed streamlining of on-boarding and additional fraud risk measures, addresses a crucial need: enhancing security and building trust in a system relied upon by millions, especially in rural and Tier II+ cities. Imagine smoother, more secure digital transactions across kirana stores and beyond. That's the promise of this innovative approach. Mandatory due diligence for AePS service providers and stricter fraud monitoring will be like adding layers of security to your online wallet," said Rahul Jain, CFO, NTT DATA Payment Services India. This initiative is all the more important as AePS recorded a whopping 43.31 crore transactions in January 2024, playing a vital role in delivering essential government subsidies and benefits.

### Secure payments

- RBI's principle-based framework embraces a secure future for digital payments
- The central bank proposes to streamline the process for on-boarding of AePS service providers
- RBI's extant regulatory framework for electronic trading platforms was issued in 2018
- CBDC Retail pilot currently enables P2P and P2M transactions

### CBDC Pilot

The RBI announced the introduction of programmability and offline functionality in their CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) pilot program which is a step towards enhancing the functionality and usability of CBDCs.

"Existing CBDC pilots primarily focus on basic payment functionalities, limiting their use cases. Transactions often require internet connectivity, hindering adoption in areas with poor internet access. Additionally, CBDCs cannot currently be programmed for specific purposes, limiting their flexibility. With offline functionality, convenient payments are ensured, enabling seamless transactions even without internet access," said Jain. Gaurav Goel, Founder - Director, Fynocrat Technologies, strongly believes that the CBDC is the future of India and the introduction of a sovereign digital currency such as the e-rupee holds the potential to elevate India's digital payment landscape to new heights.

Also, CBDC systems, powered by blockchain technology, offer cost-effective alternatives to managing and distributing physical cash, with transaction costs among the lowest globally and the ability to facilitate real-time transactions round the clock.

MONEY MATTERS

# WHY YOUR MONEY DESERVES GOOD GOVERNMENTS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

A lot of expert commentary on the Budget 2024-25 was that it was inconsequential since it was an interim one. A full Budget will be presented in July 2024 when the new government assumes office in May 2024. The latest opinion polls put the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition at the front. The highlight of the interim budget was the focus on fiscal consolidation. Many of you may wonder what it means and why it matters in an election year.

There is a tendency to adopt a loose 'fiscal policy' ahead of general elections. Governments tend to spend money on offering freebies to people to garner votes. The fiscal position of the present government is strong enough to cheer individual taxpayers with incentives and the poor with free food or cash. However, there seems to be an emphasis on remaining on the 'fiscal consolidation' glide path. That perhaps shows the confidence the present regime has about the election outcome.

Fiscal consolidation may sound harsh for you as an individual because there are no straightforward tax concessions or free money incentives. However, it is vital for your long-term financial planning. A government that is conservative on spending money is good for the inflation and interest rates in the economy. India's fiscal deficit is expected to be 5-6% on average and much more if you add state governments.

Governments fund excess expenditure by borrowing in the market. That reduces the money available for businesses and individuals. It adds to inflation and leads to high-interest rates. You do not want your governments to offer free money or incentives without adequate resource planning.

A good government will also focus on good spending. It is very clear from the data released over the years during the budget that the present regime in New Delhi concentrated on a higher capital expenditure. However, the government also had to spend significant resources on food security and fiscal support after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely to take a few years of fiscal consolidation for the government to recoup the higher spending already incurred. India's infrastructure needs are rising every year with a growing population.

The present government is looking to spend a record amount on infrastructure. The subsequent governments need to continue to do more than the present government. No matter the political composition of the governments that assume power in 2024 or the future, governments that spend more money on building physical and social infrastructure are good governments for your money, too. They must curb their urge to live beyond their means, focus on reducing endemic corruption and leakages and still win votes. A good government will strive to strike a balance, which should keep the long-term interest rates in check.

### What it means

The interplay of interest rates and inflation influences the value of your money. Suppose the consumer price inflation in the economy remains high for a long time; then, it erodes the value of your income. Your expenses rise as you need to spend more yearly for the same amount of goods and services. That puts pressure on your ability to save and invest. Your financial future depends on your ability to save and invest more yearly. If you notice that you are doing less yearly, the external environment is not conducive. Your income needs to grow and keep up with the momentum of your expenditure. At the same time, you need to allocate more money towards your future life goals.

If a government is not managing finances better, it borrows more money from the market. A good government will strike a balance between revenue and expenditure. It will not borrow more than planned. Any excess borrowing by the government 'crowds out' businesses and individuals from the credit market. That leads to lower borrowing by businesses and individuals. It leads to them cutting spending. If the demand for goods and services slows, the overall productivity in the economy is affected, slowing down the economy. Your money deserves better management of government finances.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

MONEY-WISE

# TRY USING VOLATILITY TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
*writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'*

MOST financial advisors are scared to scale down the return expectations of clients. In the Indian context it is easy to see why. If you tell a client that he will get 8% in a debt fund, most middle-class clients are going to turn around and say "I am investing ₹600,000 a year in 4 PPF accounts, and ₹200,000 in NPS so my debt appetite is already met". Similarly, the FA who says "10-12% return in equity" will be scoffed at even in FA meetings! It is as though the FA thinks that the returns that a client gets is a function of what the FA says!! In the US, the return expectation for the next decade is pretty bleak. For stocks, Jason Zweig, a columnist, says he combines dividend yield with projected earnings growth, which he expects to be about 5% over the next decade. That translates into a roughly 4.5% return on a 60% equity/40% bond portfolio, and even lower for more conservative portfolio mixes. Let us apply this to an Indian scenario. The current dividend yield is about 1.5% on the Sensex, projected earnings growth of 9%, yes our current PE of the market is high, but I am not sure of the PE of the mutual fund portfolio, let's leave it unchanged. That makes the return expectation on equities about 10.5%. For bonds, current yields are about 7.5% for the 10 year G-sec and high quality corporate bonds are about 9%p.a. Now if you take a haircut for expenses, you come to a pretty unimpressive 9.5% equity projection and an 8% debt projection.

- Safety, taking care and diversification are much better than fortune telling which I have done. I could be wrong by a long mile, so do not assume that these numbers are sacrosanct for a whole decade.
- Saying 'such low returns' so I will NOT invest at all is also very foolish, because keeping your money under your bed does not help either. Cash has proved to be a terrible asset, and expect PPF and NPS returns to drop.
- You need to keep your asset allocation in mind and use volatility to your advantage – entering the equity market a little too early or staying there a little too long when the party is over will not hurt you as much as not being in the party at all.
- Low cost bond funds will capture some of the portfolio valuation return which a bank fixed deposit or PPF will not.
- SIP in debt funds and SIP in equity funds is possible, remember PPF is a brilliant product only if you are already seeking inflation protection through equities. Balanced funds and Multi-Asset Allocation funds are more tax efficient.
- Your portfolio is dynamic, and so is your fund requirement, so if in an equity boom year if you need money, your asset allocation may change, because your draw down can happen from equities instead of debt (assuming Retiree portfolio). The advantage of starting with a low expectation is that in case you end up getting a higher return, you are still waiting for the 'regression to the mean' which may not happen at all in your investing period. In 10 years' time your risk profile, net worth, etc. would have changed – and your portfolio too!!

# Sonata Software targets to achieve $1.5 billion revenue by fiscal year 2026

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

MID-TIER IT firm Sonata Software targets to achieve revenue of $1.5 billion by the end of FY26 at an international EBITDA level of low-20s. In an interaction with TNIE, Jagannathan Chakravarthi, Chief Financial Officer, Sonata Software, said the company's goal remains to be one of the fastest growing Modernisation Engineering firms.

"From a growth perspective, we are betting big on a few pillars, which include winning multiple large deals consistently every quarter; over delivering on Mergers and Acquisitions; and winning new logos that can scale to be the next large account, leveraging our ecosystem of key partners like Microsoft, AWS, etc," he said.

He added that they will double down on four strategic verticals – Healthcare & Life Sciences; Banking, Financial Services and Insurance; Retail, Manufacturing; and Telecom, Media & Technology – and key geographies of North America, UK, Europe, India and Australia.

In the third quarter of this fiscal, the company's revenues stood at ₹ 2,493 crore, sequential growth of 30%.

"Despite macro headwinds, this is the fifth consecutive quarter that Sonata Software has showcased industry-leading performance. Our EBITDA percentage of 22.6%, without forex and other income, reiterates resilient performance and profitable growth. We have reasons to believe that our guided EBITDA margin (Before forex and Other Income) will remain in the range of 20-22%. The variance, if any, would be based on our investment decisions every quarter," he added.

The company continues to remain optimistic about its long-term growth prospects. According to him, the impact of macroeconomic headwinds has been broad based.

While they are seeing some delays in decision making, the company's big bets and sustained investments continue to deliver great outcomes. Its orderbook and pipeline remain strong. In terms of sectors, Sonata's Healthcare Life Sciences business forms 12% of its revenue, BFSI grew to about 18%. Its Modernisation Engineering focus bumped up revenue contribution from cloud and data from 45% to 59%.

The company continues to invest 1.5 to 2% of its revenue on future growth including Gen AI, Microsoft Fabric. As of now, the company is in the final stages of shaping its hiring plan for FY25. "Our preliminary outlook indicates a continuation of our commitment to campus hiring, with an estimated intake of around 600 new graduates for the upcoming year. Despite prevailing market uncertainties, our robust revenue plan, driven by a strong pipeline and order book, instils confidence in our growth trajectory," Chakravarthi added.

# Zomato: delivering profit and robust growth

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

BACK in June 2022 when Zomato announced its decision to acquire loss-making quick commerce firm Blinkit, there was wide scepticism that this purchase would delay the company's path to profitability. Following this, Zomato's losses swelled in the coming quarters and its shares took a big beating. In the following month, the stock rock-bottomed to about ₹ 40 apiece, a sharp fall from the ₹150 level of November 2021.

However, it took only a few quarters for the food tech giant to bounce back and become a highly profitable firm. Zomato on Thursday reported a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹138 crore in the December quarter (Q3FY24), helped by sharp growth in its quick commerce business and resilience shown by its food delivery business despite macro headwinds.

Zomato had reported a PAT of ₹36 crore in the preceding quarter and a net loss of ₹346.6 crore in Q3FY23. Zomato's operating revenue surged 68% year-on-year to ₹3,288 crore in Q3FY24 from ₹1,948.2 crore in Q3FY23. One of the key highlights of Zomato's result was that the company reported annual as well as sequential revenue growth across its different segments: Food Delivery, Hyperpure, Quick Commerce, Going Out and Others. While a big chunk of its profit came in from the food delivery business, it was the quick commerce segment which saw a remarkable recovery. This segment's Adjusted EBITDA improved from -227 crore in Q3FY23 to -89 crore in the recently concluded quarter. Deepinder Goyal, Founder, MD & CEO said that the company's consolidated topline (Adjusted Revenue) continues to grow meaningfully above their stated expectation of 40% + YoY. Infact, at this point, we expect the topline to continue growing at 50% + YoY, said Goyal. On Blinkit, the CEO said that GOV growth at 103% YoY (28% QoQ) continues unabated. "Losses continue to decline and we are on track to meet our guidance of Adjusted EBITDA break-even on or before Q1FY25," said Goyal.

Analysts at JM Financial said Zomato reported a very strong quarter in 3Q, as most headline numbers were either in line or ahead of their estimate, amidst tough macros. Analysts at Motilal Oswal expect Zomato to deliver a strong 70%/41% YoY growth in FY24/FY25, with Blinkit outpacing the food delivery business because of geographical expansion, improvement in order frequency, and moderation in a competitive environment in the quick commerce industry.

"Over FY23-26E, Zomato should deliver a revenue CAGR of 29%/99% in food delivery/Blinkit verticals, helping it grow its consolidated adj. revenue by 42% over the same period. Zomato turned positive and reported an EBITDA in 3QFY24. It delivered a margin of 1.6% against -1.7% last quarter. With continued growth momentum, the company should report a healthy EBITDA for FY24 and a good 4.5% EBITDA margin in FY25. This should in turn help Zomato report a PAT of ₹3.6b/ ₹9.5b in FY24/FY25," said Motilal Oswal. Zomato's consistent growth has made the stock a top pick among investors.

The company's share prices have gained 188% in the last one year. With a market cap of ₹1.30 lakh crore, Zomato is now valued more than new-age firms such as Paytm, Nykaa, Delhivery and Cartrade (one can even add the struggling Byju's) combined. Going forward, the street expects the company's share to hit new highs. While Jefferies has raised the target price to ₹205, Bernstein has set a target price of ₹180 with an outperform call on the firm. Motilal Oswal maintains a BUY rating with a TP of ₹170 and JM Financial has a TP of ₹200 for the stock.

## *Boxers Amit, Sachin clinch gold at Strandja meet*

CWG gold medallist **Amit Panghal** and national champ Sachin clinched gold medals at the 75th Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Sunday. Amit (51kg) pulled off a 5-0 win over reigning world champion Sanzhar Tashkenbay. Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen lost 2-3 against Uzbekistan's Sabina Bobokulova to bag silver.

# ATP PUSH FOR SERVICE IN INDIA

In a first-of-its-kind deal, governing body providing monetary support to all four Challenger events in the country

**SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN**
@Chennai

THE Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), one of several governing bodies for the sport, are providing monetary support to all the four Challenger events in India. It's a first-of-its-kind deal between the governing body and the organisers of the Challenger events in India. The ATP started this initiative in 2024, according to Vijay Amritraj, the president of the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA).

"All the Challengers in India at this point will get some (monetary) help," he said on the sidelines of the Chennai Challenger. "That's why they also have the Challenger TV carrying this event. I said 'I'm not doing the production cost for this because it's too expensive'. They are undertaking the production cost for all four Challengers."

> **I said 'I'm not doing the production cost for this because it's too expensive'. They (ATP) are undertaking the production cost for all four Challengers.**
>
> Vijay Amritraj, TNTA president

While Amritraj, who has worked closely with the ATP in the past, didn't put a ball-park figure, he said 'it wasn't that bad'. "There's a formula depending on the size of the tournament, something to do with the ranking... we are able to make both ends meet. It's an important factor, we are not overwhelmed by it. "This is the first year they have started doing it for the Challengers. A lot has to do with what they have to do with respect to the content of Challenger TV. There's a monetary aspect to it that they benefit. They would then transfer some of that to us to offset some of our costs. That's the way it works." While Amritraj termed the Chennai Challenger a success, he implored the ATP to give the city 'a 250-level event'. "India needs an event and it's your (ATP) job to find me one," he said. "That's my argument. If we can't afford it, that's a different argument. But we can do a 250 or even a 500, for sure. All I want to do is lease a 250, give it to me for three years and tell me how I did." Amritraj was also effusive in his praise of Indian tennis administrators for coming together to put this four-week swing together. "We work closely. Last year, we had only three (Challengers)," he said. "The important thing is to be able to coordinate. The ATP needs to know we can have a four week swing in one country in one time zone which you can hardly do. Even if you play four Challengers in the US, you are going to be in different time zones, different surfaces, weather conditions, indoor or outdoor..."

He was also hopeful of other state associations coming together to expand the swing. "I think more cities also want to do it," he said. "There is tremendous airline connectivity. We are able to actually... coordinate and bring these events. Frankly now, it's up to our players."

Less than one hour after he finished the conversation, Sumit Nagal showed the value in having events of this magnitude in the country.

## More tears than words: Nagal after cracking top-100 ranking

**SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN**
@Chennai

LAST February, Sumit Nagal was a broken man. Multiple injuries had rid him of competitive tennis to such an extent he was outside the top-500. He was so out of sight that he was given a wild-card to enter the qualifiers. After winning two matches to make the main draw, he fought through the field to advance to the semis; a first at that level since reaching the last four at an event in Romania in September 2021.

A year later Nagal is the man of the moment in Indian tennis. In front of an okay crowd at the SDAT Tennis Stadium, the 26-year-old broke into the top-100 (he will be No. 98 on Monday) for the first time. An error from the racquet of Luca Nardi — there had been lots of those for the duration of the final — gave the Indian his fifth Challenger title and second on home soil after Bengaluru (2017). This one was perhaps one of Nagal's most dominating performances. Across Nagal's five matches, he lost 28 games.

As soon as the ball went long, he dropped his racquet before hugging his entourage (Somdev Devvarman was a part of the coaching team this week). "I don't think there were words, more tears than words," he said when asked what spoke after the victory. "Lots of emotions, we have all worked very hard to be here."

Sumit Nagal celebrates after winning the ATP Challenger in Chennai | MARTIN LOUIS

For some players, breaking into the top-100 is a pitstop to a much larger goal. But you can see why it's a big deal for the Indian (the 10th player and the first since Prajnesh Gunneswaran in 2019 to break through the glass ceiling).

Sometime between September 2021 and February 2023, he had even contemplated leaving the sport for good. "2022 Summer was probably the worst time," he said when asked to reflect upon his career between the two time periods. "I had just started playing after six-seven months off. I got injured again. That was one of my hardest (times), it was very dark. I asked myself 'why me? why me?'. In October that year, I made a switch. I need to stop playing the victim; if it's going to happen, it's going to happen. I need to change from 'why me' to 'why not me'?"

Since that change in the mental make-up, Nagal gradually rose up the rankings before winning two Challenger titles at Rome and Tampere in 2023. His 2024 is continuing on a similar theme: advancing to the second round of the Australian Open as a qualifier before picking up this title.

His next challenge is to stay in the top-100.

## U-19 Men's WC: It's all yellow again

**GOMESH S** @Chennai

ALMOST three months after Pat Cummins and his lads silenced a billion Indian cricket fans, thousands of miles away from Ahmedabad, in Benoni (South Africa), eleven Australians followed suit to hand another heartbreak to the defending champions, claiming their fourth U19 World Cup title. The Hugh Weibgen-led side beat Uday Saharan's team by 79 runs, adding to the trophy cabinet for the Australian men, who currently hold the ICC World Test Championship and ODI World Cup, in both of which India were the runner-ups.

Going into the summit clash, India and Australia were undefeated, setting up for an enthralling contest. Having won the toss, Weibgen opted to bat first and Naman Tiwari immediately struck to remove Sam Konstas. However, despite India taking wickets at regular intervals, Australia posted 253/7, with Harjas Singh top-scoring for them (55). In reply, pacer Mahli Beardman ran through the top-order reducing India to 55/3. Despite opener Adarsh Singh's rescue effort, India were bundled out for 174.

Earlier, Callum Vidler set the tone for Australia's defence, dismissing opener Arshin Kulkarni. India pinned their hopes on Musheer Khan, Sarfaraz's brother, who has been one of the prominent names in the batting line-up. However, Beardman had other ideas. He cleaned up Musheer and followed it up with the wicket of Saharan, making a dent on India's hopes of defending the title. However, India still had hopes. All they needed was a good partnership between Adarsh and Sachin Dhas. But a momentary lapse of concentration against spin meant Dhas nicked off-spinner Raf MacMillan to take the long walk to the dressing room. India's hopes were dashed when Beardman came back to bounce Adarsh out for a 77-ball 47. MacMillan did the rest, taking 3/43 as Australia won the U19 World Cup for the first time since 2010.

India's dreams might have crashed, but what this WC has shown is that there is no dearth of talent. Rest assured, one will be seeing and hearing a lot about quite a few of them in the coming years. **Brief scores:** Australia 253/7 in 50 ovs (Harjas 55, Weibgen 48, Dixon 42, Oliver n.o 46; Limbani 3/38, Tiwari 2/63) bt India 174 all out in 43.5 ovs (Adarsh 47; Beardman 3/15, MacMillan 3/43).

Australian players celebrate after sealing the contest on Sunday | AFP

## Saxena clinches 9/68 against Bengal

**AGENCIES** @Thumba/Dharamsala

DOMESTIC cricket stalwart Jalaj Saxena destroyed Bengal with career-best figures of 9/68 as the visitors found themselves on the brink of a second successive defeat in the Ranji Trophy Group B here on Sunday. Resuming on 172/8, Bengal managed to add just eight runs to their overnight total with the veteran all-rounder adding two more wickets to his name.

The 37-year-old now has 439 wickets and has 6600-plus runs from 138 matches in first-class cricket. Despite a substantial lead, Kerala skipper Sanju Samson chose not to enforce follow-on and declared their second essay at 265/6 to set a massive 449-run target for the visitors. In reply, Bengal were 77/2 with Abhimanyu Easwaran batting on 33. Bengal had lost their last match against Mumbai at Eden Gardens.

### Badoni hits century as Delhi set Himachal target of 327

Ayush Badoni smashed a magnificent hundred as Delhi's batting finally fired in unison to post 381 for six declared in their second innings, setting a target of 327 for Himachal Pradesh in their Ranji trophy Group D match here on Sunday. Badoni hit 12 fours and a six in his 115-ball 111-run knock after the opening duo of Anuj Rawat (54 off 32 balls) and Yash Dhull (82 off 81 balls) gave a flying start to Delhi's second innings.

Himachal Pradesh lost Prashant Chopra (5) in the second over before reaching 31 for one in eight overs with opener Shubham Arora (15) and Ankit Kalsi (7) at the crease at stumps. Himachal, who had taken a first-inning lead on day two, will need 296 runs to win on the final day.

Jalaj Saxena (R) celebrates a wicket against Bengal on Sunday | EXPRESS

### Karnataka frontrunners against Tamil Nadu

Left-arm spinner Ajith Ram's five-wicket haul helped Tamil Nadu bowl out Karnataka for 139 but the visitors still held the edge in their Group C match in Chennai. Ram (5/61) and Sai Kishore (2/27) shared the spoils to bundle out Karnataka in 56.4 overs to set themselves a target of 355. First innings centurion Devdutt Paddikal was Karnataka's top-scorer with a 56-ball 36. At stumps on the penultimate day, Tamil Nadu were 36/1, still needing 319 runs. Vimal Kumar was batting on 16 and giving him company was Pradosh Ranjan Paul on 10. Narayan Jagadeesan (8) was the only batter to be dismissed. Earlier, resuming on 129/7 in reply to Karnataka's 366, Tamil Nadu added just 22 runs before being bowled out.

**SELECT SCORES**

**Group B:** In Thumba: Kerala 363 & 265/6 decl in 64.2 ovrs (Kunnummal 51, Baby 51, Gopal 50 n.o; Ahmed 3/80) vs Bengal 180 in 51.1 ovrs (Easwaran 72; Saxena 9/68) & 77/2 in 20.4 ovrs (Easwaran 33 batting). In Vizianagaram: Andhra 261 & 271/5 in 92 ovrs (Bhui 100 batting, Vihari 48, Rasheed 42 batting; Saurabh 3/73) vs Uttar Pradesh 198 **Group C:** At Chennai: Karnataka 366 & 139 in 56.4 ovrs (Ajith Ram 5/61) vs Tamil Nadu 151 & 36/1 in 15 ovrs (Vimal 16 batting; Vyshak 1/12). **Group D:** At Dharamsala: Delhi 264 & 381/6 decl in 61.3 ovrs (Badoni 111; Dhawan 2/60) vs Himachal Pradesh 319 inin 88.2 ovrs (Dhawan 95; Siddhant 5/103, Chauhan 3/72) & 31/1 in 8 ovrs. At Cuttack: Uttarakhand 342 & 203/8 decl (Jiwanjot 74; Mohanty 3/17, Samantray 3/31) vs Odisha 169 & 17/2 in 9 ovrs (Dhapola 2/8). At Puducherry: J&K 106 & 152 (Udeshi 3/48) beat Puducherry 172 & 67 in 35.3 ovrs (Vanshaj 5/16, Mushtaq 5/28).

## Brij Bhushan's son new UP wrestling unit prez

**FIROZ MIRZA** @Chennai

LESS than two months after former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh distanced himself from wrestling due to a massive protest against him, his son Karan Bhushan Singh was unanimously elected as the president of Uttar Pradesh Wrestling Association on Sunday. Karan replaced his father for the top post. Like the WFI, Brij Bhushan, who is also a member of parliament from BJP, has already served three tenures as the UP association president and was ineligible to contest as per the National Sports Development Code. Karan was senior vice president in the previous regime.

Returning officer retired Justice Anil Kumar Singh announced the results of the election held in Nandini Nagar, Gonda. Incumbent WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh was elected to the post of senior vice president while Suresh Chandra Upadhyay, who is employed with the Indian Railways, was elected as the general secretary. Sanjay Kumar served as a vice president while Upadhyay was joint secretary in the last executive committee. Akhand Vir Singh became the treasurer.

With the country's top wrestlers launching a protest against Brij Bhushan, the government in the past assured them that neither he nor his relatives would contest the WFI elections. It eventually led to the election of Sanjay Singh, considered a close associate of Brij Bhushan, to the top post.

However, the sports ministry abstained newly-elected WFI from functioning soon after the election and formed a three-member ad-hoc committee to manage the day-to-day affairs of the federation.

**Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Karan Bhushan Singh (L) with Suresh Chandra Upadhyay after elections

### Office-bearers & executive committee members

**President:** Karan Bhushan Singh; **Senior vice president:** Sanjay Kumar Singh; **Vice presidents:** Shankar Yadav, Jay Prakash Sharma, Sushil Rajput, Aditya Pratap Singh, Anand Dev Upadhyay; **General secretary:** Suresh Chandra Upadhyay; **Joint secretary:** Chander Vijay Singh, Chattar Singh; **treasurer:** Akhand Vir Singh; **Executive members:** Vinay Sahi, Raj Kumar Mishra, Vikrant Upadhyay, Bharti Baghel, Divyansh Tyagi.

EXPRESS READ

### Sreejesh hands India win over Netherlands

BHUBANESWAR: Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh turned out to be the saviour as the Indian men's hockey team defeated world number one Netherlands 4-2 via a shoot-out in the FIH Pro League here on Sunday. Sreejesh made three fine saves in the shoot-out to hand India the bonus two points after both the teams were locked at 2-2 at the end of regulation 60 minutes. Netherlands took one points from the match.

### High jumper Tejaswin triumphs in Belgium

NEW DELHI: National record holder in high jump Tejaswin Shankar won the top prize in the International High Jump Gala Elmos 2024 athletics meet in Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium with a leap of 2.23 metres. Shankar, competing for the first time since October last year, finished ahead of Greece's Antonios Merlos (2.20 metres) in the World Athletics Indoor Tour Challenger event.

### Gukesh finishes 6th in rapid play-offs

WANGELS (GERMANY): GM D Gukesh had to be content with a sixth place finish in the rapid play-offs of the Weissenhaus Freestyle Chess challenge after losing the last three rounds here. Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan dominated the rapid event that was mainly done to determine the pairings for the knockout stage. The young Uzbek ended with 5.5 points.

### Maxwell slams fifth T20I ton, equals Rohit's feat

ADELAIDE: Glenn Maxwell smashed a 55-ball 120 not out to equal Indian skipper Rohit Sharma's record of most centuries (five) in the T20I format here. Batting at No 4, Maxwell unleashed his fury against the West Indies bowlers, smacking 12 fours and eight sixes to bring up his century in 50 balls. His knock propelled Australia to a mammoth 241/4. In reply, the hosts restricted the West Indies to 207/9 to win the second T20I by 34 runs.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

## *Jamshedpur make a point against Bengaluru*

**AGENCIES** @Jamshedpur

JAMSHEDPUR FC restricted Bengaluru FC to a 1-1 draw at the JRD Tata Sports Complex to round off Matchweek 14 of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 on Sunday. Suresh Singh Wangjam opened the scoring for the visitors with a screamer in the 14th minute, but Javi Siverio equalised in the second half to ensure that both teams settled for a point each from this lively encounter.

The Blues were chasing their fifth straight win against the Red Miners in the league, and they couldn't have gotten off to a better start for the same. Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) graduate Chingambam Shivaldo Singh earned a place in the starting XI and he was tireless on the right flank, launching in a fierce delivery that was flicked by Sivasakthi Narayanan onto the path of Sunil Chhetri inside the box.

Action from the match between Bengaluru FC & Jamshedpur FC | ISL

Sivasakthi and Chhetri were positioned parallel to each other a few yards away from Jamshedpur FC goalkeeper TP Rehenesh. However, Chhetri was in a very acute angle to the goal, and hence refrained from taking the onus upon him to unleash a shot at goal. He instead laid up the ball for the onrushing Suresh, who showed sharp instincts to deposit the ball in the top corner of the net. Jamshedpur FC didn't let the goal get the better of them though. Their frontline kept pushing the buttons of the Bengaluru FC backline, getting into dangerous spots inside the box to test their luck against Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

However, their moment of reckoning arrived courtesy of Siverio. Jeremy Manzorro's corner kick in the 70th minute was half-heartedly cleared by the Blues, and the ball led to Imran Khan on the inside channel of the right flank. The attacker swung in a curling cross for Siverio that the midfielder headed inside the net with perfect precision, leaving no chance for Sandhu to save the graces this time around.

## EPL: Arsenal hit West Ham for six

**AGENCIES** @London

DECLAN Rice scored on his return to West Ham as Arsenal smashed David Moyes' men 6-0 in a statement of intent in the Premier League title race on Sunday.

Bukayo Saka struck twice, while Leandro Trossard and centre-backs William Saliba and Gabriel Magalhaes were also on target in a ruthless display from Mikel Arteta's men as they set a new club record for a Premier League away win. Victory takes the Gunners back to within two points of Premier League leaders Liverpool and behind Manchester City only on goals scored.

The wheels of Arsenal's challenge for a first league title in 20 years appeared to be coming off when they lost at home to the Hammers amid a run of one win in seven games either side of the new year.

Arsenal's Declan Rice reacts after scoring against West Ham | AFP

However, they have bounced back emphatically since a two-week winter break to lay down the gauntlet to perennial title challengers City and Liverpool at the top of the table.

Later, Scott McTominay scored a late goal as Manchester United defeated Aston Villa 2-1. Rasmus Hojlund had opened the scoring for the visiting side in the first half before Douglas Luis's equaliser in the 67th minute.

### Leverkusen thump Bayern

LEVERKUSEN: Xabi Alonso's unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen took control of the Bundesliga title race on Saturday, outclassing Bayern Munich in a 3-0 home win to go five points clear at the top of the table.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

| AFCAT | UPSC ESE 2024 | APTET 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Date: February 16 to 18, 2024 | Date: February 18, 2024 | Date: February 27 to March 9, 2024 |



Shunning technology as a learning aid is a common misconception and so is the notion that excessive reliance on it is beneficial. Hence, by conversating with experts and noting their insights, **Mrittika Banerjee** charts the best approach to learning when technology is involved

# TECH, TIPS AND LEISURE
## MAXIMISING PRODUCTIVITY AND WELL-BEING

## Keep distractions at bay while learning online

VIRTUAL learning, though convenient, can be a battle against distractions. but don't you fear, the following guidelines from memory coach **John Louis** tackles strategies to conquer distractions and maximise your online learning experience.

**REMEMBER**
The best approach is personal. Experiment, combine strategies, adapt to your needs, and seek help if needed. With active management, you can transform virtual learning into a focused and rewarding experience

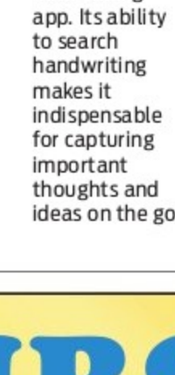
1. **Environment:** Create a dedicated study space, silence distractions, and ensure physical comfort.
2. **Planning and time management:** Treat classes like real ones, schedule effectively, leverage techniques like the Pomodoro method, and set achievable goals.
3. **Active engagement:** Participate in discussions, take effective notes, and find real-world connections to the material.
4. **Technology and tools:** Master the learning platform, utilise time management and focus apps, and consider forming virtual study groups.
5. **Personal well-being:** Prioritise sleep, exercise, breaks, and social connections to optimise focus and prevent burnout.

The more the effort, the better you learn. Research on cognition clearly demonstrates that the more effort that is put into learning something, the better it will be recalled in the future. For effective learning, that effort must be in both the encoding (the learning) or the retrieval (the recall). Transferring information from sensory memory to short-term memory, to episodic memory and finally, into a stable long-term memory trace is the kind of learning we are trying (or supposed to be trying) to accomplish in higher education.

### GO FORTH AND CONQUER, DIGITAL LEARNING WARRIOR!

**TO FOLLOW THESE TECHNIQUES EFFECTIVELY**
• Set clear goals for each study session • Use a variety of techniques based on material type • Take breaks to prevent burnout • Stay consistent with a regular study schedule • Adapt techniques to personal learning style

## Leveraging technology to your complete advantage



YOUR brain is for generating ideas, not storing them. If you don't give proper attention to what commands your focus, it will demand more attention than it merits. As productivity guru David Allen, renowned for the 'Getting Things Done' time management method, aptly puts it: "You can do anything, but not everything." Allen emphasises the significance of utilising tools or technology to ease the cognitive load, thereby, boosting productivity.

Thomas Frank, a popular productivity YouTuber, likens technology to training wheels for the brain. The brain can easily succumb to distractions but one can build discipline. In the early stages, using technology as training wheels becomes essential. Technology offers tools that aid in task management and efficiency enhancement. But like any tool, its effectiveness depends on how it's wielded.

**HERE ARE POWERFUL APPS THAT CAN SERVE AS TECHNOLOGICAL AIDS**

**FOREST TO FOCUS:** This Pomodoro app not only helps you manage your time efficiently but also adds a unique twist. For every session completed, a virtual tree is planted, motivating you to stay focused. The app prevents you from using other applications during your focused time, reducing screen time. Additionally, it donates real money to plant trees in Africa, creating a meaningful incentive for users

**NOTION:** Described as an all-in-one workspace app, Notion allows you to take notes, manage tasks, and organise your thoughts seamlessly. It serves as a versatile platform for various productivity needs

**TODOIST:** Thomas Frank recommends Todoist as a comprehensive to-do list app. With the ability to create lists and sublists, and even speak tasks into it, Todoist helps you stay organised across different categories

**GOOGLE CALENDAR:** Creating separate calendars for different areas of your life, Google Calendar ensures that you manage your time efficiently and maintain a balanced schedule

**EVERNOTE:** Evernote serves as a powerful note-taking app. Its ability to search handwriting makes it indispensable for capturing important thoughts and ideas on the go

**I've used apps for timetables and task lists, especially the notes app where I cross off things. I've also tried the Quizizz app for revision, but no flashcards since I'm a visual learner. However, I created mnemonics, which worked well for concepts like periodic elements. I explain concepts aloud to friends, making them clearer. Additionally, I break things into smaller chunks, especially for history**

— Khushi Jain, Class X, Sushila Birla Girls' School, Kolkata

## MAKING THE MOST OF FREE TIME WITHOUT GETTING DISTRACTED

**During free time, I would advise everyone to step away from screens as they are counterproductive and exhausting. I used to go for walks, play with a pet, or simply go window shopping, avoiding screens altogether. A more enjoyable alternative is going to the theatre and watching a movie once a month. Another practice I maintained during my preparation was travel — a yearly escape that proved both pleasant and rejuvenating**

— Manuj Jindal, IAS officer

**During my free time or when stressed, I listen to music or call friends and cousins. Sometimes I take quick dancing breaks or go cycling in my complex, or even do yoga**

— Khushi Jain, Class X, Sushila Birla Girls' School, Kolkata

**In my free time, I try to do things that interest me like chess, quizzing, reading books or watching cricket. During these breaks, I try to stay as far away from academics as possible. However, these breaks are short, for ten or twenty minutes — maximum thirty**

— Sai Sharan, Class X, Gitanjali Senior School, Hyderabad

**While technology is beneficial for students, it's crucial to use it judiciously. Most learning happens manually, so excessive reliance on apps isn't helpful. Personally, I recommend Evernote for note-taking — an app I used extensively during my preparation. Additionally, Notion is excellent for organising tasks and information. YouTube serves as a valuable learning platform, but caution is needed to avoid getting carried away** — Manuj Jindal, IAS officer

## Implementation of study techniques is key

COGNITIVE psychology research suggests that students, despite being aware of these learning strategies, often struggle to implement them. A recent research paper, *Students Can (mostly) Recognize Effective Learning, So Why Do They Not Do It?* by the University of Texas, US, sheds light on this. The study, involving 300 students categorised into Bottom 10%, Average, and Top 10%, exposes divergences in how these groups approach learning methods, as depicted in the table below. This reveals the awareness of effective learning and portrays how the methodology of application is what differentiates a topper from an average student or the bottom 10%.

| Strategy Code | Bottom 10% | Average | Top 10% |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reviewing notes | They would briefly look over the information | Reviewing notes, looking through PowerPoints, and looking at any external resources | They would review the material thoroughly and then ask questions on the material to other students and teachers |
| Practice problems | They would self-practise the same exam repeatedly until they feel confident | The student would take notes while reviewing the content and then do practice problems to reinforce the knowledge | They will try to practise problems and revise homework, especially where they made mistakes in their homework |
| Flashcards and/or Self-testing | They would use flashcards and try to memorise their notes by looking at them | I would expect a lot of flashcards (Quizlet) and practice exams would be the best way to ensure success | I think they would use active recall to test themselves on the material, such as flashcards with questions |
| Making flashcards | They may make flashcards with the terms on one side and the definitions on the other | This student would make notecards to study from throughout the day | Make notes throughout the semester. Ask about what topics will be on the final. Make flashcards of final exam material |
| Study with friends or classmates | Study all the class lectures, look up questions online, and maybe ask a friend | They would probably try to link up with other students to exchange notes and go over the material together | The student might participate in study groups where their classmates collaborate and quiz one another. They will likely review their notes. They might make flashcards |
| Seek help | By going to office hours and tutoring sessions | The student would also most likely go to office hours to ask questions to the professor and/or teaching assistants | They would discuss the material with teaching assistants or tutors to ensure they understood it |
| Use online resources | They would look at the little notes they have and Google some things they think would be related to the class | Watch examples being done on YouTube | See if there are any resources online for practice problems, go over the concepts they have struggled the most with, and devote the most time to those |

**Source:** *Students Can (Mostly) Recognize Effective Learning, So Why Do They Not Do It? by Stephany Duany ReaORCID,Lisi Wang,Katherine Muenks andVeronica X. Yan *ORCID Department of Educational Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA https://www.mdpi.com/2079-3200/10/4/127*

To glean insights into this, EdexLive again turns to high-performing students from different levels of education.

**EXPERT VIEW**

**It is a set goal for me to remain absolutely focused when I am studying. With theory-heavy subjects, I try to take notes so that it becomes easy for me to revisit them. It is time efficient. Setting deadlines is also an important aspect**

— Dr Anuj Pachhel, Productivity YouTuber

**"It's impossible to beat someone who is simply having fun", this statement is something I truly believe in. For me, Math has always been fun, and that is what I want every child to genuinely feel. I did it because I loved it**

— Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash, acclaimed as World's Fastest Human Calculator

**More than the study techniques, it is quite important to develop an interest in anything that you pursue, even in the case of studies. Methods that have worked for me in developing my concentration are meditation and yoga**

— Agastya Jaiswal, Young prodigy

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12.02.2024 MONDAY

**DAY'S DIARY**

## *Venera 1 launched*

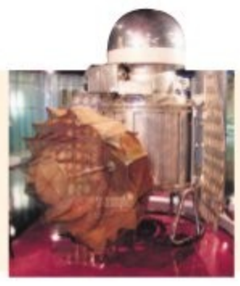
The first spacecraft to fly past Venus, Venera 1, was launched by the Soviet Union on this day in 1961. It was the second attempt by the Soviet Union

**TRIVIA**

Venera 1 was launched using a Molniya carrier rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. The spacecraft's 11D33 engine was the first staged-combustion-cycle rocket engine

**INITIAL FAILURE**

Its sister ship, Venera-1VA No 1, failed to leave Earth orbit when launched on February 4, due to a problem with its upper stage. Venera 1 was the second attempt



**OTHER SPACECRAFTS**

Two related Soviet spacecraft, Vega (a Russian acronym for Venus-Halley) 1 and Vega 2 (launched in 1984), flew past Venus successfully

*The latest events taking place in the city*

PG2

Prepping for the upcoming Prime Volleyball League, David Lee, former Olympian and coach of Bengaluru Torpedoes, is hopeful about bringing home the trophy

# POWERING UP

MONIKA MONALISA

IT is always intriguing for any sport-lover to know about a conversation between sports legends. David Lee, the coach for Bengaluru Torpedoes, the city's official volleyball team, who caught up with Sunil Chettri, captain of Bangalore FC – just before facing the Chennai team at Sree Kanteerava Stadium recently – reveals that it was about knowing more about each's sport. "Sunil Chettri was very nice. He wants to come to one of our training sessions as he loved volleyball as a kid. To which I said, 'You want to come to my training? I will put you through one intense session'," says a Lee in a playful tone.

When we catch up with Lee, it's a day off from training for the upcoming Prime Volleyball League on Feb 14, happening in Chennai. The stress is just setting in along with the season. "It's exciting, but also very stressful. Our pre-season is going great. Our team looks much better than the last season, a better defensive and all-round team in general. We got a few upgrades from the foreign players but I'm excited to see what we can do this season," explains Lee.

In the previous season, Bengaluru Torpedoes settled as runners-up, as they lost the trophy to Ahmedabad Defenders. But this time, Lee affirms the team looks stronger than ever. "Our captain Pankaj (Sharma) has been our most stable player over the years. We have a lot of young players, one of our middles, Srajan U Shetty is still a junior who is up-and-coming for the league," says the three-time Olympian.

Eyeing the trophy this time, Lee is keeping a close watch on other teams too. "It's going to be the same team that has been in the finals in the last few years, and that's Kolkata and Ahmedabad. But I, honestly, think the whole league is going to be balanced. Last year, I didn't think we had as strong a team as we do this year. This league is very unpredictable, especially with the format but I have high hopes for this team," says a hopeful Lee.

One mission is to put volleyball in the same league as other sports. Lee has seen a growing interest among youngsters in this sport. "We brought in a bunch of kids from local schools and gave them a background in volleyball. So I think bringing them in and having them meet these pros and see them in training is a great way to establish ourselves as a growing sport. You try to reach the youth who have been interacting with our pros and see what they can do. There's a professional league in India that can be a part of it if they hone their skills," says Lee, who is looking forward to the league where they will be facing Kolkata Thunderbolts.

*Last year, I didn't think we had as strong a team as we do this year. Prime Volleyball League is very unpredictable, especially with the format but I have high hopes for this team*

- David Lee, volleyball coach

## THAT FUZZY FEELING

Despite being under the weather and on a heavy dose of antibiotics, popular singer Sonu Nigam got the audience at Bowring Institute swaying to his classics, *You Are My Soniya, Kal Ho Naa Ho, Anisuthide Yako Indu*, among others | ALLEN EGENUSE J

GRUB HUB

**Aslam Gafoor** (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

**THE RIGHT ANSWERS**

1) Shufta
2) Vichyssoise
3) Asparagus

**FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT**

1) Renu V 2) Shruti B 3) Arif D

**THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY**

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress @gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday.
The first prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Absolute Barbecues**

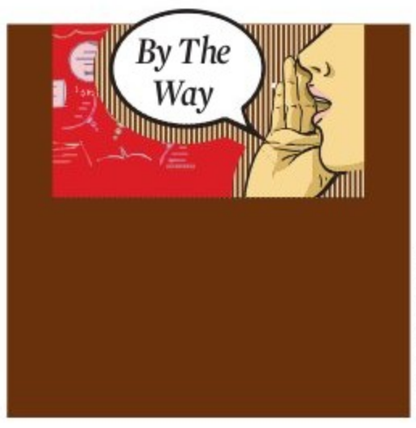
**CITY READ**

### Walkathon to create awareness on diabetes on Feb 18

In a bid to raise awareness on diabetes which remains a pressing health concern worldwide, SugarFit is holding a Beat Diabetes Walkathon, on February 18. The walkathon is scheduled to commence in Jayanagar 3rd block, and will be held between 7am and 10am. For more details, call 8921757501.

### Bank celebrates 88th Foundation Day

The Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) celebrated its 88th Foundation Day on February 10 commemorating the legacy of its founder M.Ct.M. Chidambaram Chettiyar, who set up the bank in 1937. The bank organised a complimentary health and eye check-up, donated saplings in Mount Carmel College, and flagged off a walkathon organised to spread social awareness on road safety and cyber awareness.




PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

## *Note that!*

Last week when American author **Kai Bird** (left), known for his award-winning works, including the life and times of Robert J Oppenheimer, came to namma ooru, there were hundreds of eager fans who showed up at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur to catch a glimpse of Bird who was to be in discussion with Bengaluru's very own historian, **Ramachandra Guha** (right). Amidst much excitement, Bird suddenly noticed that his phone – containing all his notes – was missing. Turned out, he had accidently left it in the cab that had dropped him off at the venue. Some frantic calls later and tracking down the cab driver, Bird started his session after a short delay. But we can tell you that it was totally worth the wait!

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

# Sophia School's Holistic Approach to Education and Character Development

FOUNDED in 1993 under the leadership of Kanickamary Immaculate, Sophia School in Bangalore started as a play school for children aged two to two and a half, emphasizing English language skills, rhymes, alphabets, numbers, and music. Over time, the school evolved, adding lower and upper KG classes, followed by the introduction of Primary School, and eventually high school classes. With a current enrollment of over 700 students, Sophia School has consistently showcased academic excellence throughout its journey.

The school is currently affiliated with the SSLC, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board.

According to Immaculate, who is also the Prinicpal of the school, Sophia School's philosophy is rooted in holistic education, nurturing intellect, spirit, and character. "Grounded in love and enlightenment, we foster critical thinking, global awareness, and values that empower students for a purposeful future. Our emphasis on a compassionate and inclusive community celebrates diversity, while our commitment to shaping individuals underscores the importance of values like compassion, integrity, and resilience," she said.

Kanickamary Immaculate

With a mission to foster a vibrant community of learners, encouraging spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth, the school stresses on the cultivation of critical thinking skills, a global perspective, and the nurturing of core values like compassion, integrity, and resilience.

"We understand the crucial role that parents and guardians play in the educational journey of our students. We encourage open communication and collaboration, fostering a strong partnership between the school and the home. Together, we can provide the support and guidance necessary for our students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally," said Immaculate.

### Student Enhancement Programme

The Student Enrichment Programme is meticulously crafted to elevate life skills, social acumen, personality, and leadership qualities. Emphasising relationship building, resilience, critical thinking, and problem-solving, the programme aims to foster self-awareness, social awareness, and bolster self-esteem through engaging activities, debates, elocution, student-led conferences, and various clubs.

Activities include yoga/meditation, life skills training, communication skills, body language and compering, presentation skills, time management, stress management, leadership skills, analytical skill development among others.

### FACILITIES

**Technology Integrated Learning:** With Smart Boards, the classrooms meet diverse grade-level needs, enabling teachers to present engaging content.

**Special Education & counselling:** Dedicated counselors offer personalised guidance, nurturing emotional well-being, and empowering each student to excel academically and personally.

**Sports & Activities:** From indoor games to outdoor sports, the curriculum promotes physical prowess, teamwork, and a well-balanced lifestyle.

**Library:** Students can immerse themselves into a diverse collection across genres, supporting academic endeavours and cultivating a lifelong passion for learning.

**Lab facilities:** With state-of-the-art technology and multimedia resources, the lab environment is dedicated to fueling curiosity and fostering innovation

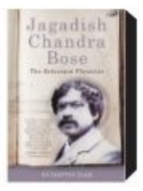
**Computer Lab:** Equipped with cutting-edge hardware and up-to-date software, these labs offer an interactive learning platform.

**Transport:** Ensuring safety and convenience, the modern bus fleet provides door-to-door transportation for students and staff.

**Medical Facilities:** An infirmary, with regular health checks and meticulous record-keeping, ensures a safe and nurturing campus environment.

**Sanitation:** Hygiene and comfort are paramount. With gender-segregated bathrooms, 24/7 water supply, and meticulous housekeeping, the schools prioritises a healthy, pleasant environment for all.

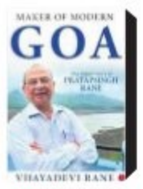
# BOOK NOOK



## Jagadish Chandra Bose: The Reluctant Physicist

**By Sudipto Das**

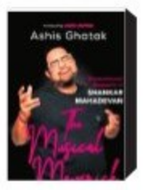
Illuminating the aspects of Bose's life, the book sheds light on early scientific research in India and the challenges faced by JC Bose as he extends the frontiers of knowledge.



## Makers of Modern Goa: The Untold Story of Pratapsingh Rane

**By Vijayadevi Rane**

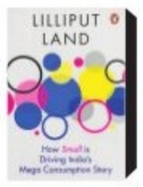
The book is a biography that reveals how Pratapsingh brought in stability, and sane, reasoned governance to Goa's volatile and unstable politics every time he became CM.



## The Musical Maverick: The Authorized Biography of Shankar Mahadevan

**By Ashis Ghatak**

This biography captures the multifaceted Shankar as a singer, musician, composer, friend, family man, guru, icon and man beloved by millions.



## Lilliput Land: How Small is Driving India's Mega Consumption Story

**By Rama Bijapurkar**

The book discusses the present and future of India's mega consumption story, with over half of its GDP accounted for by domestic consumption.

# WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

## A Dose of Thrill

Witness top international acrobats, gymnasts, and artistes performing sensational acts at the Olympian Circus. **WHEN:** Till Feb 25, 4pm **WHERE:** Exhibition Ground, Ramamurthy Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## Clay Date

Join hands (literally) with your partner, sculpting your love and connection into beautiful ceramic masterpieces at this pottery workshop.

**WHEN:** Feb 12, 1pm onwards
**WHERE:** Small World, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## Break a Leg

Ahead of Valentine's Day, go out and mingle with new people as you dance to popular tunes.

**WHEN:** Feb 13, 9pm
**WHERE:** Sunburn Union, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## Textured Art

Use your hands and creativity and learn to paint on canvas using texture and acrylic paints.

**WHEN:** Feb 12, 4.30pm
**WHERE:** ArtBeat, HSR Layout
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## Sing Along

Unleash your inner singer at this late-night karaoke party, where you get to buy a redeemable ticket and sing your heart out.

**WHEN:** Feb 12, 10pm
**WHERE:** Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## Laugh Out Loud

Go with friends, family, random strangers, or by yourself for an absurd and funny evening, as some of the best comedians in the city try to crack you up with their jokes.

**WHEN:** Feb 12, 8pm
**WHERE:** Bistro Claytopia, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## PLANK IT LIKE TAAPSEE!

Actor Taapsee Pannu joins Plankathon 2024 to celebrate ISRO's achievements with #PlanksForAces at Sree Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

# QUICK FIX

## JEERA ALOO

Contributed by **Shifra A,** Hyderabad

**INGREDIENTS**

- **Potato:** 1
- **Green chilli:** 2
- **Coriander leaves:** 1 tsp
- **Jeera:** 1 tsp
- **Chilli flakes:** 1 tsp
- **Salt to taste**

**METHOD**

- Cut the potato in slices.
- To a pan add oil and then put in the jeera.
- To it add the sliced potatoes and then toss in some green chilli, chilli flakes and salt.
- Then fry until it turns golden brown.
- Add coriander leaves and serve hot.

## What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

# FIT BIT

## PRAPADASANA KNEES OPEN WIDE

(TIP TOE POSE KNEES OPEN WIDE)

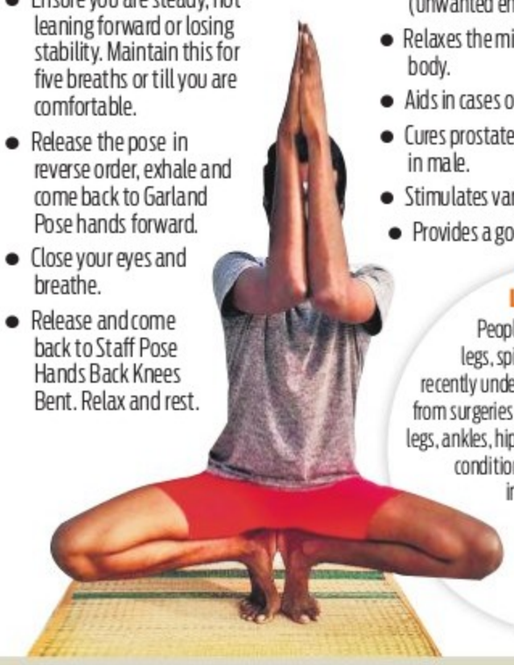
**This is a challenging variation of the Squat Pose. This pose can help cure flat feet. It eases walking and running. It stimulates the Muladhara (Root) Chakra, the Svadhisthana (Sacral) Chakra and the Anahata (Heart) Chakra.**

**STEPS**

- Start in Malasana with your feet on the ground, keep your knees apart. Ensure you are not leaning forward and your spine is centered.
- Focus on shifting the body's weight from your feet to the toes.
- Remain here for a few breaths, or until you find stability.
- Inhale, raise your palms together in front of your face, joins the elbows at shoulder level, and stretch them.
- Ensure you are steady, not leaning forward or losing stability. Maintain this for five breaths or till you are comfortable.
- Release the pose in reverse order, exhale and come back to Garland Pose hands forward.
- Close your eyes and breathe.
- Release and come back to Staff Pose Hands Back Knees Bent. Relax and rest.

**BENEFITS**

- Improves flexibility in the ankles, toes, knees, and hips.
- Strengthens inner thighs, shoulders, neck, chest, core and back.
- Improves focus and concentration to balance the body.
- Recommended for teens and helps in poses like Lion Pose.
- Helps alignment and posture with stability.
- Removes the flow of Apana Vayu (unwanted energy) from the body.
- Relaxes the mind and de-stresses the body.
- Aids in cases of plantar fasciitis.
- Cures prostate gland-related ailments in male.
- Stimulates various chakras.
- Provides a good stretch to athletes.



**LIMITATIONS**

People with injuries in their legs, spine, or shoulders or have recently undergone any injury or recovering from surgeries to abdominal, pelvic, shoulder, legs, ankles, hips, spine, or spleen regions, have conditions like stomach ulcers, piles, or inflexible joints, trauma, anxiety, migrane, BP or are senior citizens, menstruating and pregnant, should avoid this.

**By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai**

# NOW STREAMING

## REGIONAL

**SARKAARU NOUKARI** (Telugu)

In the year 1996, the entire nation was politically facing a serious issue. In addition, the country was suffering from another dangerous problem. In this scenario, a government employee took up the responsibility to change the ideology of people.

**Cast:** Sahithi Dasari, Rajeshwari Mullapud

● **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**BHA-MAKALAPAM 2** (Telugu)

A wealthy hotelier disrupts Anupama's life. In retaliation, she puts together an imperfectly perfect team to pull off an elaborate heist at his luxurious hotel during a culinary competition.

**Cast:** Priyamani, Sharanya Pradeep

● **Watch on:** Aha

**FIGHT CLUB** (Tamil)

An aspiring footballer's life is upended when his mentor is murdered. Entangled in revenge and power games, can he seize control of his destiny in time?

**Cast:** Vijay Kumar, Avinash Raghudevan

● **Watch on:** Disney + Hotstar

**TIGER 3** (Hindi)

Tiger is informed about a new military group that is planning something beyond all imagination, headed by a deeply motivated Rehman who has a history of his own with Tiger and a personal vendetta to settle.

**Cast:** Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Emraan Hasmi

● **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**ANIMAL** (Hindi)

The son of a wealthy, powerful industrialist returns to India and undergoes a remarkable transformation as he becomes consumed by a quest for vengeance against those threatening his father's life.

**Cast:** Ranbir Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, Rashmika Mandanna, Triptii Dimri

● **Watch on:** Netflix

*All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.*

**THE TRIAL** (Telugu)

Roopa, a Hyderabad policewoman, faces tragedy on her anniversary as her husband, Ajay falls to his death. After moving on, accusations of murder resurface from Ajay's family.

**Cast:** Spandana Palli, Vamsi Kaotu, Yung Ram

● **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

**AKASH VAANI** (Telugu, series)

The story revolves around a divorced couple, Akash and Vaani who used to be celebrated couple back in their college. Now fate throws them into a situation that demands the sour coupe to act like the love bords they used to be.

**Cast:** Kavin, Reba Monica John, Sharath Ravi

● **Watch on:** Aha

## FOREIGN

**SOCIETY OF THE SNOW** (English)

The flight of a rugby team crashes on a glacier. Passengers who survived the crash find themselves in toughest environments to survive.

**Cast:** Enzo Vogricic, Agustin Pardella

● **Watch on:** Netflix

**LIFT** (English)

To stop a terrorist from flying 10 tons of gold from London of Zurich, Interpol enlists a professional thief and his crew to steal the loot midflight.

**Cast:** Kevin Hart, Gugu Mbatha-Raw

● **Watch on:** Netflix

**SIXTY MINUTES** (English)

Desperate not to lose custody, a mixed martial arts fighter makes enemies when he ditches a race to his daughter's birthday party.

**Cast:** Emilio Sakraya, Dennis Mojen

● **Watch on:** Netflix

**BADLAND HUNTERS** (Korean)

An earthquake turns Seoul into a lawless badland. A fearless huntsman goes on to rescue a teenager from a mad doctor who held the teenager captive at a cult camp.

**Cast:** Don Lee, Lee Hee –jun

● **Watch on:** Netflix

| SUBSCRIPTION | |
|---|---|
| Netflix: | ₹199/month |
| Prime Video: | ₹299/month |
| Jio Cinema: | ₹999/year |
| Disney+Hotstar: | ₹899/year |
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| Aha: | ₹699/year |
| SonyLIV: | ₹299/month |

COURTESY: FREEPIK

# THE PULSE OF FOOD

From taking the family surnames of the Roman Empire, pulses boast a rich and unique history. With World Pulses Day having been marked over the weekend on Feb 10, *CE* explores the wonders of the crop

MAHIMA ANNA JACOB

PULSES are small but important members of the legume family. Pulses, or the seeds of the legumes, are an integral part of cuisines from across the world, especially in dishes that are considered staples. From the popular Indian dal, the Mediterranean hummus to the traditional Italian soup Pasta e Fagioli (a one-pot dish with pasta, vegetables, and white beans), beans are a main component in these recipes.

Celebrating the versatility of pulses, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Following its success and recognising the potential of the seeds to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, the General Assembly proclaimed February 10 as World Pulses Day.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) recognises 11 types of pulses — dry beans, dry broad beans, dry peas, chickpeas, cowpeas, pigeon peas, lentils, Bambara beans, vetches, lupins, and pulses nes (minor pulses that do not fall into one of the other categories).

### The long story

The first evidence of pulses comes from 11,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent, a region in the Middle East. Roughly around the same period, the presence of peas was found by archaeologists in caves in Thailand. Archaeological evidence suggests that peas were also grown in the eastern Mediterranean and Mesopotamia regions at least 5,000 years ago and in Britain as early as the 11th century.

Evidence of the cultivation of lentils has been discovered in the Egyptian pyramids. Interestingly, the royal Egyptian tombs contained lentils – this could be true – as the pharaohs stocked tombs with food. That was a way to sustain the dead in the afterlife.

Pulses were also a part of the patrician families that controlled the Roman empire. The Romans consumed more legumes in their diet than any other civilisation, and these legumes even found their way into the names of some historical figures. For example, first-century Roman senator Gaius Calpurnius Piso was named after peas and Roman politician and general, Publius Cornelius Lentulus Spinther or simply Lentulus was named after Lentis.

Pulses provide about 10 per cent of the total dietary protein consumed in the world and contain twice the protein content of most cereal grains. It is said that the introduction of pulses gave way to a more nutrition-filled diet for the populace and helped save generations of people in Europe from malnutrition after the Black Plague ravaged the lands in the 1340s.

The seeds of the legume plants were also pivotal in several traditions. During the New Year's celebration in Iran, which lasts for up to 13 days, the dining table displays seven food items starting with the letter 'S' and of these, lentil seeds known as 'sabzi' take the centre stage to symbolise rebirth and renewal.

### India and Pulses

The Indian subcontinent has been the place of origin of several pulses, including pigeonpea, black gram, green gram, lablab bean, moth bean, and horse gram.

Chickpeas are claimed to have originated in the Turkey-Syria region and then spread to South Asia. However, there has also been a documented history of chickpeas in India. Horse gram is indigenous to the Indian subcontinent. Archaeological evidence proves the use of horse gram as food around 2000 BC. In Rigveda, Yajurveda and even in Buddhist and Jain literature, mentioning of horse gram is evident, but in different names.

### Environmental benefits

Pulses improve soil quality and this makes them a perfect choice for intercropping. Also, its unique ability to capture nitrogen from the air and store it in the roots makes it less dependent on fertilisers compared to other crops. Since leguminous plants require little water, they can be adapted very well to dry soils. Now this has brought greater benefits to African farming communities.

### POWER PACK

- **High in protein:** Pulses are an excellent source of plant-based protein, making them ideal for vegetarians and vegans.
- **Rich in fibre:** They are high in dietary fibre, which promotes digestive health, aids in weight management, and helps regulate blood sugar levels.
- **Low in fat:** Pulses are low in fat, particularly saturated fat, making them heart-healthy options.
- **Complex carbohydrates:** They provide complex carbohydrates, offering sustained energy and keeping you feeling full for longer periods.
- **Vitamins and minerals:** Pulses are rich in vitamins such as folate, vitamin B6, and vitamin C, as well as minerals like iron, potassium, and magnesium.
- **Antioxidants:** They contain various antioxidants, including flavonoids and phenolic compounds, which help fight inflammation and oxidative stress in the body.
- **Low glycemic index:** Pulses have a low glycemic index, meaning they cause a gradual rise in blood sugar levels, making them suitable for individuals with diabetes.
- **Cholesterol-lowering properties**: Regular consumption of pulses may help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease.

## Sprouts Salad

Recipe by chef Arun Vijayan, restaurant consultant

**INGREDIENTS**

Sprout green gram: 150 gram
Sprout black channa: 80 gram
Chopped cucumber: 25 gram
Chopped seedless tomatoes: 20 gram
Pomegranate seeds: 15 gram
Chopped onions: 20 gram

**FOR DRESSING**

Salt to taste
Honey: 5 ml
Olive oil: 20 ml
Lemon juice: 5 ml
White pepper powder: 2 gram

**METHOD**

Prepare the dressing and keep it aside. In a bowl, mix all the ingredients along with the prepared dressing.

## Chocolate Chickpea Mousse

Recipe by Sheeba La Fleur

**INGREDIENTS**

Aquafaba, liquid from one can of chickpeas - 1 can
Cup sugar - 1/4cup
Cream of tartar - 1/2 tsp
Dark chocolate chips - 2 cups
Coconut mylk - 115 oz can

**FOR GARNISH**

Orange zest - 1 tsp
Chopped pistachios - 2tbsp

**METHOD**

Pour the liquid from the chickpeas into the bowl of a stand mixer. Attach the whisk and beat on high speed until soft peaks form. Gradually add the sugar and cream of tartar to the mixer while it's running. Continue whisking until stiff peaks form. Place the chocolate in a large bowl, and melt the chocolate either in the microwave or over a double boiler. Allow the melted chocolate to cool slightly. Gently fold the melted chocolate into the whipped chickpea meringue until well combined. In a separate mixing bowl, add the coconut cream and whisk until stiff peaks form. Add 1/3 of the whipped coconut cream into the chocolate-chickpea mixture, stirring gently to combine. Then, carefully fold in the remaining coconut cream until evenly distributed. Divide the mixture evenly into four 1-cup containers. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours to set. Before serving, garnish each portion with chopped pistachios and a sprinkle of orange zest.

## Mix Fruit Horse Gram

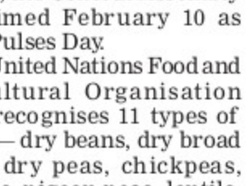
Recipe by chef Arun Vijayan, restaurant consultant

**INGREDIENTS**

Boiled horse gram: 150 gram
Strawberry cubes: 15 gram
Kiwi cubes: 10 gram
Sesame seeds : 5 gram
Edible flower for garnish
Skinless coconut slices : 5 gram
Black grapes: 15 gram

**METHOD**

In a bowl,arrange the all ingredients and garnish with edible flower.



JITHA KARTHIKEYAN
jithakarthikeyan2@gmail.com

*(The writer is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)*

TALKING ART

# COLOURFUL CURATIONS THAT QUESTION

A singular look at the walls lining our streets will suffice to dampen the brightest of our days. Posters of innumerable political parties announcing a never-ending stream of non-functional schemes and non-existent achievements fight for legroom on these surfaces. We fail to realise that the promised golden future refers to their own and has absolutely nothing to do with those who pause for a minute on a busy road to read them, allowing themselves to be convinced by the smiles beaming from behind folded hands, that it's their own future that is being considered. It only takes an election to shatter those illusions, only to get fooled all over again by the next poster on the next public wall.

If you think this is the bane of all countries, it is not so. There exist many parts of the world where artists fill roadside walls with what is termed graffiti art. Whether simple texts or elaborate paintings, graffiti art is usually done on the sly on public property and without the permission of the authorities. Surprisingly, they were never considered as defacements in ancient times, with the earliest traces being found in Rome, dating back to 2,500 years ago. An interesting fact is that back then, most graffiti boasted of sexual escapades!

Napoleon's soldiers are known to have etched their names on monuments during their campaign in Egypt. During the Second World War, the phrase 'Kilroy was here' scribbled next to the drawing of a bald man with a large nose, peeking over a wall, with his fingers clutching tightly, became immensely popular and turned up on many walls where the American soldiers served.

In the 1960s and '70s, modern graffiti evolved with artists using spray paint. Subway trains in New York were the targets initially. In contemporary times, graffiti has served as powerful voice of dissent, especially in conflict areas where open protests are punishable. The Arab Spring in 2011 and the more recent revolution in Sudan witnessed a lot of such art.

Graffiti on the walls of our country is still considered illegal and categorised as vandalism. Its purer form, street art, however, is allowed if the due permissions have been procured. Not so surprisingly, in India, the laws are still vague and the illegality of graffiti on our roads is determined by the discretion of the authorities and the local political administration.

This ambiguous status of graffiti being either art or a crime has not deterred Indian artists from using it to express their anguish regarding varied issues. Daku (meaning bandit) is a street artist from Bengaluru who mocks the system through his graffiti. He is considered the pioneer of street art in our country. Bengaluru-based **Baadal Nanjundaswamy** is also known to use graffiti to highlight the pathetic condition of our roads.

Questioning the system through art in public spaces may perhaps invite trouble with the administration but is it not ironic however, that political outfits and corporates are allowed to disfigure our city walls to promote their greed and ambitions? Designate public spaces for graffiti and may the citizen's voices speak in bright colours.

***(The writer's views are her own)***

SMART ADS

**PURVA BLUE BELLE**
Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro Station
(Purple lane) Rajajinagar
3 Bedroom Jodi units
5 Bedroom + Servant room with all Luxurious Amenities.
Direct metro from here to ITPL (white field) / KR PURAM/ BYYAPPANAHALLI .
Very good Convenience those who are working above Areas.
**Only few units left for Sale.**
**Contact : Owner 9844027560**

**DNR Highline @ Okalipuram**
near LULU Mall
Rajajinagar
3 & 4 BHK FLATS
with 7 Star Luxurious Amenities.
Only Few Flats available for Sale. for details
**Contact : Owner 9844027560**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **NADIMPALLI GANESHA RAJU JAGANNATHA RAJU** R/at No.12, Between 6th & 8th Main Road, 12th Cross Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003 have changed my name to **NARASA RAJU GANESHA RAJU JAGANNATHA RAJU** vide affidavit dated: 10/2/02024 Before Notary **H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Abdur Rahim** S/o Abdul Khudus R/O No 106 1st cross Anwar Layout Shampura main road Bangalore 560045. I state that **Abdul Rahim** and **Abdur Rahim** are one and the same and that is myself. here after words i would like to be known as **ABDUL RAHIM** vide affidavit dt : 09.02.2024. Sworn before Notary : Meer Hassan

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Smt. Pallavi Anjan @ Pallavi** W/o. Anjan R.H, aged about 32 years, residing at No. 25, Swaranamba Nilaya, 4th Cross, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Bagalakunte, Bangalore-560073, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Pallavi** to **Pallavi Anjan** (after my marriage), vide affidavit dated 09.02.2024, sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Begaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **JALPA MANHARBHAI CHITALIA**, W/o. SAMIR BIPIN GANDHI, resident of A003, Adithi Elite Apartment, Bhoganahalli Road, Doddakaneli Behind Embassy Tech Village, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JALPA MANHAR CHITALIA @ JALPA RITESH HAKANI** to **JALPA MANHARBHAI CHITALIA,** vide affidavit dated 10.02.2024, sworn to before C. Sharada, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **HAFSAH IFTIKHAR AHMED,** (New Name) formerly called **HAFSAH,** (old name) residing at 9/1, 2nd Cross, Pemme Gowda Road, J.C. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 006. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'HAFSAH'** to **"HAFSAH IFTIKHAR AHMED"** Vide Affidavit dated 08.02.2024 Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.C. Subbu Swamy, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **RAMESH KUMAR PATEL,** S/o Devjibhai, aged about 46 years, Residing at No. 48/49, Sri Dhanalaxmi Nivas, 24th Cross, 2nd Block, Akshayanagar, Ramamurthynagar, Bangalore North, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560016, have changed my name to **RAMESH KUMAR** vide Affidavit dated 10.02.2024 sworn before advocate and notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **RIZWAN KHAN R Z,** resident of 37, 4th Cross, Railway Parallel Road, Ambedkar Nagar, Yeshwanthapur, Bengaluru 560022, have changed my name from **RIZWAN KHAN to RIZWAN KHAN R Z** vide Affidavit dated 09.02.2024 sworn before advocate and notary Smt. A. Manjula, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Mandar Satish Ghatpande, aged 43 years, S/o. Mr. Satish Ghatpande, R/o #F-024, Brigade Cosmopolis, Whitefield Main Road, Forum Neighbourhood Mall, Whitefield, Bangalore 560066, Karnataka, India. I have changed my minor daughter's name from **'IRA'** to **'IRA MANDAR GHATPANDE'** vide affidavit dated 10/02/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary Indira S.S, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **K S GEORGE (Sebastain George)** S/o **Sabastian** aged about 67 Years , R/at No. 19, P. Floor, Bethel House, 2nd Cross, Garden Villas, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Nagarbhavi-560072, I submit that **K S GEORGE** and **SEBASTAIN GEORGE** is one and the some and it refers to my some only. Vide affidavit dated : 9/2/2024 Before Notary **Onkarappa.N.R** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) DARSHITHA.R,** Residing at No.590,`SRIHARI', 4th Cross, 7th Main Road, Behind Glass Factory, HBR Layout. 1st Stage 5th Block, Bengaluru-560043. have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) DARSHITHA.R** to **(NEW NAME) ANVITHA. R** vide affidavit dated 10.02.2024 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Smt. Pallavi Anjan** W/o. Anjan R.H, aged about 32 years, residing at No. 25, Swaranamba Nilaya, 4th Cross, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Bagalakunte, Bangalore-560073, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **Shreyas** to **Shreyas Gowda,** vide affidavit dated 09.02.2024, sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Advocate & Notary, Begaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, JHINUK BHATTACHARJEE** Residing at Flat No.309, SLV Platina, Horamavu, Banga lore-560043. Have Changed my Name as **JHINUK BHATTACHARJEE DUTTA** vide affidavit Dated: 03.02.2024 before Notary UDAY KUMAR K Bangalore

**AFFIDAVIT**
I, **Mrs. SADIYA BANU,** Aged about 50 years, W/o. Late Mr. Mukthiyar Ahmed, D/o Mr. Mohammed Shariff and Mrs. Zeenath Banu, residing at No.207, 7th Cross, New Gurappana Palya, Bangalore-560 029. I state that, in my Passport my name is wrongly entered as **SADIYA BANO** instead of **'SADIYA BANU'** and my date of birth is wrongly entered as **25/01/1971** instead of **03/01/1974.** Hereby declare that, My correct name is **'SADIYA BANU'** and correct date of birth is **03/01/1974** vide Affidavit dated 09.02.2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary V. Rangaramu, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **BHAVYA NANJAPPA,** Residing at N0-248, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Layout, Dasarahalli, Hebbal, H A Farm Post, Bengaluru-560 024, have changed my Minor Daughter's Name From **SHRUTHVI HARISH** to **SHRUTHVI GOWDA,** vide affidavit dated: 09-02-2024, sworn before Notary, Vijayalakshmi.K, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I,**Mrs. ITISHREE MOHANTA** W/o. Mr. Shubham Pattanayak, aged about 27 years, Resident at: Flat No.A-3006, SRC Blue Bells Apartments, Sai Sarana Layout, Kammasandra, Electronic City, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name from **ITISHREE PATTANAYAK** to **ITISHREE MOHANTA,** vide affidavit dated 9/2/2024 sworn to before B.M.Chandrashekar advocate and notary Bangalore

For SMART ADS & THE INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

# 'MY ROLE IN *KTM* CANNOT BE SUMMARISED IN ONE SENTENCE'

.....says actor Sanjana Doss, as she discusses her upcoming film, which is slated to release this week

Sanjana Doss

A SHARADHAA

SANJANA Doss, an upcoming talent, doesn't mind waiting for a breakthrough moment to be recognised and appreciated for her work. The actor, who made her acting debut with *Manasmita*, is now eagerly anticipating her first commercial venture, Aruna's *KTM* co-starring Deekshith Shetty. The film is scheduled for release on Feb 16. On how significant this sophomore film is, Sajana says, "Be it *KTM* or any other project, I don't have any expectations at least for now. Attachment to something arises when we expect too much. If people like it, I will be content. Though it is early in my career, I have realised that a career in cinema is not an easy path."

While she cannot reveal the full form of the title *KTM*, Sanjana Doss opens up about her role. "Personally, I haven't seen such a multifaceted character like the one I play in *KTM* in recent films. My role cannot be summed up in one sentence. She is an extremely complex and sensitive individual, though not everyone sees her sensitive side. To the outside world, she appears carefree, living in the moment, and unaffected by things, but she is fiery," Sanjana explains about her character.

She also has a few words about her co-actor, Deekshith Shetty. "Initially, I was hesitant to work with an actor who has varied acting experience such as in theatre, Television and films, as this was just my second film. It usually takes time to get comfortable with a co-actor, especially while performing romantic scenes. We had several rehearsals and Deekshith's professionalism made things easier." The shooting schedule took time, but Sanjana Doss explains that Deekshith, who plays multiple shades, needed time to get into character. "The film has an ensemble cast, and it was a task to match all of their schedules. Having said that, I didn't face any schedule hassles because the team was very organized," she says.

Sanjana, on the sidelines, also reflects on her approach towards the industry. "Initially, I was starry-eyed, but I knew it would be a tumultuous task. We can't predict what will happen in this industry. I don't want to wait for someone to roll out the red carpet for me. I am working as hard as possible. I assist directors, go to Mumbai when required, write my own scripts, and even continue to dance and sing. At this stage, it becomes valuable to stay in tune with your craft rather than waiting for the right project to arrive. In between all of this, I await opportunities," she says.

The actor is in talks for a few projects, which she will reveal once the official announcement is made. "I have finished filming for an English web series, and a Malayalam film, AT (Welcome to the Dark Side)," she concludes.

A still from the film

# 'Despite working in Tulu films, I have mixed feelings on my Kananda debut'

Says filmmaker Devadas Kapikad, as he gears for the release of *Purushothama Prasanga* set to hit theaters on March 1

CE FEATURES

*PURUSHOTHAMA Prasanga*, marking the debut of Ajay Prithvi Rashtrakuta as the lead actor, also sees legendary comedian and Tulu filmmaker Devdas Kapikad venturing into Kannada cinema. The film is backed by Ravikumar's Rashtrakuta Pictures is a family comedy-drama, has now officially announced its release date as March 1. Speaking on the sidelines of the release date announcement, Devdas Kapikad shared, "It was luck that brought me here. Producers Ravikumar and Shamsuddin called me one day and said, 'Make a movie.' I had pondered over it because I lacked commitment at that time. Then I decided to make the movie and narrated the story. They agreed very happily. From there, my journey of directing my first Kannada movie began," expressing his gratitude for the encouragement received from the production team.

A still from the film

Moving on to the story of *Purushothama...*, it's a completely family-oriented tale. "It's a story that everyone enjoys. It includes various elements such as children's and parents' love for foreign countries and the greatness of our country. There are also comedic elements in the movie," says Kapikad, adding, "*Purushothama Prasanga* offers situational comedy that naturally flows according to the circumstances. This is a movie that has emerged in the Mangalore Kannada dialect, and sentiment also holds importance in the movie."

Ajay is playing the lead hero, Kapikad says, "Ajay is someone who has received acting training abroad. He comes across as an actor with the quality of doing anything with interest without any ego and has well understood the intricacies of the character he plays."

Transitioning to the challenges faced while directing his first Kannada movie, Kapikad reflects, "There was indeed a challenge. But everything came together very well with the pre-preparation and the support of the team. Many artists from the Tulu film industry have acted in the movie, providing significant support," says the director. "We have shot the film in and around Mangalore and Dubai, and we have four songs, with music handled by Nagendra Prasad, and I have penned the lyrics for the songs."

Devdas Kapikad

Transitioning to the challenges faced while directing his first Kannada movie, Kapikad reflects, "There was indeed a challenge. But everything came together very well with the pre-preparation and the support of the team. Many artists from the Tulu film industry have acted in the movie, providing significant support," says the director. "We have shot the film in and around Mangalore and Dubai, and we have four songs, with music handled by Nagendra Prasad, and I have penned the lyrics for the songs."

# Rangayana Raghu's powerful portrayal as a principal elevates *Just Pass*

A SHARADHAA

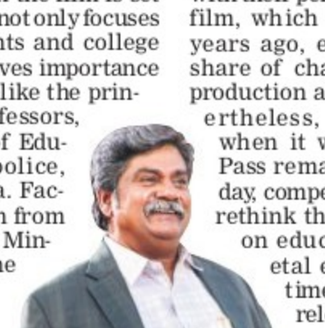
**JUST PASS**
**Director:** Raghu KM
**Cast:** Rangayana Raghu, Sadhu Kokila, Govinde Gowda, Shri Mahadev, and Pranati

YOU will catch a glimpse of the soul of *Just Pass* in the title itself. The film revolves around the world of education, focusing on a college tailor-made for students, who march to the beat of their own drum, satisfied with scraping by with just pass marks. Directed by Raghu KM, this story treads new ground as a retired principal, Dalavayi (Rangayana Raghu), dares to radically change his college. Despite straying from the usual format, the director's clever storytelling injects vitality into the film and paints a vivid picture on the big screen.

KV Degree College, founded by Dalavayi, symbolises inclusivity by admitting students with modest academic records, challenging the norms of prestigious institutions. The film delves into the internal and external dynamics of a college, with the principal playing a central role alongside other characters. On one side, efforts are made to guide wayward students, while elsewhere, daring attempts are underway to close down the college. Amidst this narrative, the story also deals with themes like the education system, the involvement of students, and its advantages and disadvantages.

RATING 3/5

Even though the film is set in a college, it not only focuses on the students and college life but also gives importance to characters like the principal, the professors, the Minister of Education, the police, and the mafia. Facing opposition from the Education Minister due to the college's consistent success, Dalavayi and his students stand firm against attempts to tarnish their reputation. The film also portrays the students' courage in tackling challenges, including resisting foreign recruitment on campus.



Director Raghu prompts reflection on the essence of education and societal values. While he excels in talking about these themes, the director seems to lose focus on its execution as it feels like he couldn't handle the ensemble cast effectively. Dialogues by Raghu Niduvalli work well enough to convey the message. The flaws are covered by the effective performances, notably, by actor Shri Mahadev and Pranati. However, it is Rangayana Raghu who truly shines as the principal. His commanding presence, expressed through subtle body language, is endearing to the audience as much as it is to the audience on screen. Meanwhile, seasoned performers like Sadhu Kokila, Prakash Thuminad, and Govinde Gowda, shedding their comedic personas—while still bringing humour now and then—still captivate with their performances. This film, which was shot a few years ago, encountered its share of challenges during production and release. Nevertheless, regardless of when it was made, Just Pass remains relevant today, compelling viewers to rethink their perspectives on education and societal expectations.its timeline, it remains relevant today, compelling viewers to rethink their perspectives on education and societal expectations.

CE FEATURES

# Yathiraj assumes multiple responsibilities for *Sanju*

JOURNALIST-turned-filmmaker Yathiraj has completed shooting for his next, titled *Sanju*. Apart from directing, the filmmaker will be seen in multiple other roles, including story, dialogue writing, and will also play a pivotal character. The makers recently launched the music album in the presence of directors Yograj Bhat, Guruprasad, Guru Deshpande, producer Umesh Bankar, and President of KFCC NM Suresh. Composed by Vijay Harsita, the album has two songs crooned by Vasuki Vaibhav, Aishwarya Rangarajan and Naveen Sajju.

With the tagline 'Agamya Payaniga', *Sanju* stars Manveeth and Sathvika in lead roles. Set in a bus station, the film revolves around the protagonist, a common man, who navigates through life's highs and lows. Yathiraj further elaborates, "The theme explores the impact of impulsive decisions on our lives, set against the backdrop of Madikeri."

The film will feature cinematography by Vidya Nagesh, choreography by Madan-Harini and action by Thriller Manju. Sanju, bankrolled by Santhosh DM, is scheduled for an April release.

The journalist-turned-filmmaker also stars in a pivotal role in the upcoming film

# A tale about bonds being tested ends on a chilly note

A SHARADHAA

**PRANAYAM**
**Director:** Dattatreya
**Cast:** Rajavardan, Nayana Ganguly and Pavan Surya

THERE are many reasons a couple's honeymoon could go awry, but in this case, things take a strange turn when the newlywed wife, after spending 4 to 5 days, realizes she has been accompanied not by her husband, but by a stranger. Isn't this weird to learn? But that's the intriguing premise of Dattatreya's *Pranayam*, a romantic thriller with a hint of horror. The story follows Amrutha and Gautham, who find themselves entangled in a web of mystery between their engagement and marriage.

Gautham (Rajavardan), a young man who has been living abroad in the US, returns to his hometown in the Malnad region with one goal: to marry Amrutha (Naina Ganguly). Their families are delighted with the match, and the couple ties the knot, all set amidst the stunning backdrop of a coffee estate. As they prepare to start their new life together in the US, their happiness is shattered when Amrutha is unexpectedly abducted. Thus begins a captivating mystery: who has taken Amrutha? and for what reason?

An unexpected turn of events alters the course of the couple's life; their paths diverge, and their bond is put to the test. Initially, it is evident that despite some hiccups after their engagement, nothing can shake the love between the soon-to-be-married couple, emphasizing their strong bond, which carries us through the first half. However, as the mystery unravels, their romantic bliss diminishes, though their connection remains central to the story. While there are clues thrown, on what is affecting Amrutha's behaviour, the focus stays on their relationship. The suspense builds slowly, and the final reveal may not be terrifying for viewers. Still, the film delves into the couple's dynamics amidst the unusual circumstances. The story starts on a romantic note but doesn't quite satisfy with its supposed twist. The ending doesn't quite match the build-up, and it falls flat.

RATING 2.5/5

The film is mostly narrated through the lead characters, a couple celebrating their love, which is accompanied by some melodious songs by Mano Murthy. The entire soundtrack stands strong, with meaningful lyrics added with good tunes. Another credit should go to the cinematographer, who has wonderfully captured the coffee estate and the scenic beauty of the Malnad region; with even a few frames looking like paintings.

As for the performances, we can talk about three actors. Rajavardan seems to have gone by the director's instructions, justifying his role as the caring husband dealing with his wife's disappearance. Naina Ganguly, an actor debuting in Kannada, has ample amounts of screen space to perform, and she has done a decent job of portraying a character who is grappling with a situation she can't comprehend. Lastly, despite a limited screen time, actor Pavan Surya's character brings an effective twist to this romantic thriller.

The conclusion, which is quite cold, hints at a sequel, but does this movie deserve a follow-up with further explanations about the fate of Gautham and Armutha? We have to wait.